

Workstreams and Activities Updates

*****These updates cover the period since the 25 November 2021 CFS Bureau Meeting*****

1. Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment

First Draft of the Guidelines

This First Draft of the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition* was shared with the members of the OEWG on 18 January 2022 in all six of of FAO's official languages. OEWG members were invited to provide comments by 18 February. All comments have been posted in the [CFS workspace](#).

The First Draft was developed by the CFS Secretariat, with the support of the dedicated Technical Task Team and the guidance of the Co-Chairs, addressing comments received during the six regional consultations and an electronic consultation (September-November 2021).

OEWG meeting of 21 February 2022

An OEWG meeting was held (virtually) on 21 February 2022 to discuss the First Draft. The comments received before and during the meeting will be taken into account to prepare the Draft for Negotiations that will be made available in the CFS Working Space site by 15 March (in English, and in other languages by 1 April).

Updated workplan

Below is the updated workplan for the Gender Workstream

DISCUSSION OF THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE GUIDELINES: FEBRUARY – APRIL 2022	
First Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines is circulated in all language versions by the Secretariat	18 January 2022
Written inputs from OEWG on the First Draft	18 February
<u>OEWG meeting</u> to discuss the First Draft (1 day)	21 February (all day)
Draft for negotiation is circulated by the Secretariat	15 March in English (language versions available by 1 April)
PREPARATION AND NEGOTIATION OF THE FINAL VERSION: APRIL - JULY 2022	
<u>OEWG meeting</u> to share initial views on the Draft for Negotiations	21 April PM (half day meeting)

<u>Negotiations</u> of Final Version of the Voluntary Guidelines	Confirmed dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-6 May; • 27-29 June; • 30 June (AM only); • 1 July; • 1-5 August
ENDORSEMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES: OCTOBER 2022	
<u>The CFS Voluntary Guidelines are endorsed at CFS 50 Plenary</u>	October 2022

2. Food systems and Nutrition

Work to promote the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSN) continues apace, promoted by the Chairperson, Members, the Secretariat, HLPE Steering Committee, and many other Participants and partners. Partners - including UN Nutrition, WFP, FAO, WHO, SUN Movement, World Bank and CGIAR are all working to systematically promote the Guidelines among their staff and clients, assisted by the CFS Secretariat, its digital platform located on the CFS public website, and via FAO's "Evidence Platform" created to supplement the VG's 105 recommendations with links to studies, research and other technical evidence useful to policy-makers and others (<https://www.fao.org/evidence-platform-agri-food-systems-nutrition/en>). The VGFSN were addressed at a variety of public events in recent weeks, including:

Ministerial event at Expo Dubai

A high-level Ministerial Event, titled "*Food Systems Transformation in Action: The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*", was held at Expo Dubai on 24 February 2022 as part of the [UN FAO Agri Innovations Days](#). The event, organized in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa and the Government of the United Arab Emirates had the following objectives:

- Raise awareness of CFS and its role in the global governance of food security, and its VGFSN and other key policy tools;
- Learn from sharing experiences on the use and application of the CFS VGFSN at country level;
- Discuss how VGFSN can support accelerated policy action at global, regional, national, and local levels to contribute to food systems transformation and achieve the 2030 Agenda.
- Further incentivize leadership of regional governments and development partners, by highlighting how the UAE is using the VGFSN in its domestic Nutrition Strategy.

The session successfully brought together different food systems and nutrition actors who shared experiences as well as plans and ideas concerning uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines, their potential use at regional, national, and local levels, and the role of different

stakeholders and coordination mechanisms in promoting their uptake. See more information about the event and its outcomes in the Communication and Outreach section below.

3. Data Workstream

Electronic consultations on the V0 draft of the HLPE report on 'Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition' closed on 02 February 2022. A total of 56 contributions were received and will serve as inputs to the first draft of the report to be issued in June or July of 2022, ahead of a discussion on the topic at CFS-50.

4. Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems

The [Zero Draft CFS Policy Recommendations on "Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems"](#) was shared with CFS stakeholders and posted on the CFS working space on 28 January. Language versions were made available on 11 February.

CFS stakeholders are invited to submit written inputs on the Zero Draft to cfs@fao.org by **18 March**. Bearing in mind the Committee's request for practical focus, stakeholders are kindly asked to be as specific as possible in their comments and suggestions. All inputs will be posted on the CFS working space.

The OEWG meeting scheduled for the afternoon of Friday 14 March will provide further opportunity for feedback and exchange on the Zero Draft.

5. Thematic event on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition

In line with the CFS 2020-2023 Multi-Year Program of Work (MYPOW), the CFS Secretariat will organize a half-day public event on *Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition* in mid-September 2022.

The event will precede the preparation of the 2023 HLPE report on inequalities to develop a common understanding of issues and lay the basis for informed CFS policy convergence work around the topic. It will be open to all interested parties including CFS Members, (ad hoc) Advisory Group members, Civil Society and Private Sector Mechanisms and other relevant institutions.

6. Chairperson's Engagements

- The CFS Chair concluded 2021 with two missions, the first to Geneva and the second one to New York and Washington D.C. He had a number of public, bilateral and private engagements with CFS partners and stakeholders to promote CFS and its work.
- Since the start of 2022, the CFS Chair stepped up his public engagements. In January, he actively participated during the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture (GFFA). His engagement at the Ministerial meeting and his participation at a plenary event organized by the CFS Secretariat gave significant visibility to CFS.

- In February 2022, the CFS Chair addressed Ministers and other senior participants during the high-level opening session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, highlighting the relevance of CFS and its policy products for the region. Between February and May 2022, he will participate in each of FAO's Regional Conferences, either virtually or in person.
- Between 22 and 24 February, the CFS Chair was at EXPO Dubai, where CFS organized a High-Level ministerial event, co-hosted with the UAE Government and FAO RNE, to promote food systems transformation using the CFS VGFSN.
- On 28 February, the CFS Chair was at the Salon International de l'Agriculture, in Paris, at the invitation of the French Minister of Agriculture and Food, where he interacted with other ministers and development partners.

7. Events, Communications and Outreach

a. **CFS at ExpoDubai**

At the invite of the Government of the UAE and in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa, CFS took part in the Middle East and North Africa's Agri-Food Innovation Days at Expo Dubai's Food for Future Summit as part of the Expo's Food, Agriculture and Livelihoods 21-25 February 2021.

High Level Ministerial Event

In partnership with the UAE ministry of Climate Change and Environment , CFS organized a high-level event entitled "Food Systems Transformation in Action: The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition" on 24 February 2022 to raise awareness about the CFS Guidelines, their substantive content and priority areas, and to encourage policy actions to advance sustainable food systems that deliver healthy diets.

- A recording of the event is available [here](#).
- See the [event's webpage](#) on the CFS website for more information on the programme, speakers and statements delivered.

CFS Chairperson's keynote

The CFS Chair delivered a keynote on tech-enabled food future at the Global Leaders' Symposium which was part of the Food for Future Summit of Expo Dubai 2020.

CFS Chairperson's Bilateral Meetings

While at Expo Dubai, CFS Chair had bilateral meetings with a number of leaders to explore closer collaboration towards utilization of CFS policy guidelines, including:

- [H.E. Mariam Al Mehairi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates.](#)
- [H.E. Luis Planas, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain.](#)
- [Martien van Nieuwkoop, Global Director Agriculture and Food Global Practice, The World Bank](#)
- [Agnes Kalibata, President AGRA and former Special Envoy, UN Food Systems Summit 2021](#)

- [Enock Chikava, Acting Director of Agriculture at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

At the Salon International de l'Agriculture in Paris, the CFS Chair had bilateral conversations on the current situation of food security and nutrition with:

- H.E. Julien Denormandie, Minister of Agriculture, France
- H.E. Gerardine Mukeshimana, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda
- H.E. Sidi Tiémoko TOURE, Ministre des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques, Cote d'Ivoire

Related Communications

b. CFS at the 2022 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA)

CFS and its work featured prominently at the 2022 GFFA, hosted by H.E. Cem Özdemir, Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture of Germany, from 24-28 January, under the theme of "Sustainable Land Use: Food Security Starts with the Soil".

CFS was invited to organize one of two High-Level Panels at the Forum. Consequently, the Committee organized an exciting [High Level Panel on "Responsible Land Governance for Sustainable Food Systems"](#), with a focus on the CFS VGGTs. In addition, the CFS Chairperson spoke at the [Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference](#) and at the Forum's closing [press conference](#).

The final [2022 GFFA Communiqué](#) encouraged utilization of the CFS platform and its key products, highlighting their relevance to global governance of food security and nutrition.

c. Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the CFS VGGTs

As part of the 10th anniversary commemoration, FAO, CFS and partners will jointly organize a high-level event in May 2022 to assess the lessons learnt over the past ten years; remind policy makers and stakeholders of the potential these guidelines hold; and to re-confirm political, policy and financial commitments to accelerate implementation of the Guidelines.

Objectives:

1. Highlight how the implementation of the CFS VGGTs can address the most pressing challenges such as land tenure access inequality, insecure tenure rights and unsustainable agricultural practices (including land degradation, deforestation, biodiversity loss and ecosystems disruption) and contribute to achieving the SDGs;
2. Share national and regional experiences, success stories, challenges and lessons learnt in the use of the CFS VGGTs to inform future deployment at scale for impact; and
3. Mobilize political, technical and financial commitments and recommitments by governments and other partners for VGGT-based land and tenure reforms.

More details to follow.