

Workstreams and Activities Updates

*****These updates cover the period since the 18 March 2022 CFS Bureau Meeting*****

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

Draft for Negotiations of the Guidelines

The Draft for Negotiations of the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition* ([Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)) was shared with members of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) early April 2022 in all FAO official languages. An advance version of the document had been shared in English on 15 March.

The Draft for Negotiations was developed by the CFS Secretariat, with the support of the Technical Task Team and the guidance of Ms Tanja Grén, Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO, WFP and IFAD and Mr Tomas Duncan Jurado, Permanent Representative of Panama to FAO, WFP and IFAD, Co-Chairs of the OEWG, addressing comments received during the OEWG meeting of 21 February.

OEWG Meeting - 21 April 2022

An OEWG meeting was held virtually on 21 April 2022 to hear views and positions of CFS Members and Participants on the Draft for Negotiations before the start of formal negotiations.

Negotiations

The First round of negotiations took place from 4 to 6 May 2022 facilitated by the OEWG Co-Chairs. The objective was to review the entire document but time was not sufficient and the discussion on the remaining paragraphs (from number 80 to the end of the document) will continue virtually on 7 and 8 June 2022 (9.30-12.00 and 14.30-17.00). It is anticipated that all next rounds of negotiations will be held in-person at FAO HQ.

The negotiation process will follow the CFS principles and guidelines on negotiation modalities provided in the [Guidance Note](#) approved by the Bureau at its 23 March 2022 meeting. More specific information was provided in the [Letter sent by the Co-Chairs of the OEWG on Gender](#) on 29 April .

Confirmed dates for the negotiations

Dates	Times (CET)
4-5-6 May 2022	9.30-12.30; 14.30-17.30
7-8 June	9.30-12.00; 14.30-17.00
27-28-29 June	9.30-12.30; 14.30-17.30
30 June	9.30-12.30
1 July	9.30-12.30; 14.30-17.30
26-27-28-29 July	9.30-12.00; 14.30-17.00

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

An advance version of the Draft for Negotiations of the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems was shared in English on 15 April with the language versions available by the end of April, in line with the agreed workplan.

The first round of negotiations is scheduled for 30-31 May 2022 and 1 June 2022 at 09.30-12.00 and 14.30-17.00 CET in a fully virtual format, using Zoom videoconferencing platform. The second round of negotiations to be held on 4-6 July will be organized in-person at FAO HQ.

Background documents and additional information are available on the [CFS Working Space](#).

3. Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches (AOIA)

The first meeting of the Core Group of partners to promote awareness, uptake and utilization of the policy recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches was held on 4 April 2022. The Core Group on AOIA will meet quarterly for updates by the Secretariat, and to hear updates from each organization on how they are using the PRs, and to identify opportunities for partnerships and joint actions, events and/or projects.

As part of the communications drive for policy recommendations, the CFS Secretariat has published branded copies of the PRs on the CFS website in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#). A [2-page summary](#) of the PRs has also been produced.

4. Global Thematic Event at CFS 50 in October 2022 on “Boosting Responsible Investment in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems.”

Two open calls for inputs on the “CFS Principles for Responsible Investment on Agriculture and Food Systems” (CFS-RAI) closed on 15 April 2022. The inputs received will inform preparations for the CFS 50 RAI plenary session. A total of 60 contributions were received, 55 of which provided relevant and complete information eligible for analysis.

Forty-two (42) contributions document individual experiences on the use and application of the CFS-RAI:

- 7 from civil society
- 4 from governments
- 4 from UN organizations
- 4 from private sector
- 2 from academia.
- 10 were *jointly* submitted by several constituencies,
- 11 from other constituencies.

Thirteen (13) contributions document the results of multistakeholder events organized to discuss the use and application of the CFS-RAI.

As per usual practice, a *summary report* of the contributions received will be prepared to serve as a background document to inform the Global Thematic Event (GTE) on CFS-RAI at CFS50.

5. Chairperson's Engagements

The reporting period has been very intense and productive in terms of strategic and public engagements to promote the CFS platform and its policy tools.

The CFS Chair concluded his engagements in FAO Regional Conferences, actively participating in all five regional conferences, addressing Ministers and other senior participants during the high-level sessions highlighting the relevance of CFS and its policy products for Members as they implement their national strategies and programmes for food security and nutrition. He also held multiple strategic bilateral meetings

- 36th Session of Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC), Baghdad, 10 to 13 January 2022 and 7 and 8 February 2022;
- 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC), Dhaka, 8-11 March 2022;
- 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC), Quito, 28 March-1 April 2022;
- 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC), Malabo, 11-14 April 2022; and
- 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), Lodz, 10-13 May 2022.

Other engagements included:

- [Mission to Bruxelles for a hearing on food security at the European Parliament March](#)
- [Statement on the implications for global food security and nutrition of the Russia's invasion of Ukraine, at the 169th extra-ordinary session of the FAO Council in April.](#)
- [Emergency solidarity initiative for food security, promoted by the French Government, and responding to the global agriculture crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and subsequent sanctions and market/food supply shocks](#)
- [Dialogue with Minister of Agriculture of Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal and other stakeholders on the impact of war in Ukraine on global food security](#)

- [Roundtable on the role of Business in Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in Food Systems organized by PSM.](#)
- [21st session of UNPFII of the critical role played by Indigenous groups to protect our natural heritage as part of the CFS VGGT 10 year anniversary.](#)
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- Breakfast meeting on the UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance (GCRG), IMF/WB Spring Meetings
- Ministerial High-Level Segment of UNCCD COP15 in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire in May. CFS Chair also participated in a number of substantive sessions at UNCCD COP 15 via video messages.

A dedicated [webpage](#) has been created on the CFS website featuring statements, remarks and speeches by the CFS Chair.

6. Communications and Outreach

Digital outreach

- [LinkedIn](#): To continue driving communication and engagement with our stakeholders, the CFS Secretariat has launched a corporate CFS LinkedIn page with regular updates on the work of the Committee.
- [Video series](#): The CFS Secretariat also premiered a series of short, interview-based videos - #CFSConversations, with thought leaders and partners focused on the work of CFS, its platform and policy products, and their use.

CFS VGGT 10-year Anniversary

- [High level event](#): CFS and FAO are jointly organizing a high-level event on 27 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. [See event webpage for more details including registration.](#)
- [Social media toolkit](#): We kicked off a social media outreach campaign to mark the anniversary. See this toolkit for suggested messages and images for use in your respective social media platforms. Content will be continuously added.