

# Fifty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

23 – 27 October 2023

## Guide to CFS 51

### WELCOME TO CFS 51

Welcome to the fifty-first plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 51), taking place between **23 and 27 October 2023** in a hybrid format in Rome, Italy.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was established in 1974, and reformed in 2009, with the vision to be the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform of the United Nations system for promoting food security and nutrition for all. Using a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach, CFS Members and stakeholders develop and endorse policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of topics relevant to food security and nutrition and aiming towards the universal realization of the right to food.

The Plenary will begin with a high-level opening ceremony and a discussion on strengthening coordinated policy responses to the food crises, which will consider the latest edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report. Following this, the Plenary will explore global interlinkages with other key moments that relate to global food security and nutrition, including the 2023 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit, UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment 2023, and the 2024 Summit of the Future as well as the twenty-seventh (COP27) and twenty-eighth (COP28) Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

In addition, the CFS Plenary is set to endorse the following three documents: the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) 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, and the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027. The Plenary will further feature two stocktaking sessions: a presentation of the progress on the follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and an event on the monitoring of the two Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition.

Finally, the CFS Plenary will elect a new CFS Chairperson who will commence his/her two-year term following the end of CFS 51.

## CFS 51 LOGISTICS

**Dates and format:** Monday, 23 October – Friday, 27 October 2023. The CFS Plenary is held in hybrid format and side events in either hybrid format or for in-person participation only. See last page for more details on planned 36 side events.

**Morning plenary:** 10:00 – 13:00 (Rome time).

**Afternoon plenary:** 15:00 – 18:00 (Rome time).

**Evening plenary session on Monday:** 18:00 – 21:00 (Rome time).

**Drafting Committee:** Thursday, 18:30. Room location, FAO HQ, Lebanon Room.

**Hosting:** CFS 51 will be organized in a hybrid format with selected high-level speakers, Members and Participants attending in person at FAO Headquarters in Rome, with other participants joining virtually via ZOOM ('Meeting' format). The Plenary sessions will also be available via webcast.

**Participation and languages:** CFS 51 is open to all Members of the Committee, Participants and Observers. Its formal plenary sessions will be conducted in all FAO languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

**High-level participation:** Member delegations are strongly encouraged to include High-level participants such as a Minister, Vice Minister, or State Secretary (or equivalent) and inform of their participation the CFS Secretariat by 29 September 2023, to be afforded priority protocol consideration on the Speakers' List. High-level participants will be given priority for participating in panels and keynotes, and their offices are encouraged to inform the CFS Secretariat at the earliest in case high-level participants would like to be considered for those roles.

**Registration for Member and Non-Member states:** Diplomatic representatives designated to attend the CFS 51 must register online using their protected password reserved for FAO Permanent Representatives at <https://www.fao.org/members-gateway/home/en/> by 15 September 2023. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the FAO Members' Gateway.

**Registration for other Stakeholders:** Participants and Observers designated to attend the 51st Session of CFS should send an email to [CFS51-Registration@fao.org](mailto:CFS51-Registration@fao.org) by 15 September 2023 indicating names and last names, organization, official title, address, and email address. Personalized links to access the virtual meeting will be made available upon receipt of the above information.

**Timekeeping:** CFS 51 provides an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and interaction. Delegates are asked to keep their interventions succinct (three minutes or less) and relevant to the item under discussion. **Ministers or regional representatives will be afforded five minutes for statements**, as per usual CFS practice. Lengthy formal statements are strongly discouraged. Prior to the start of a session, delegate statements should be emailed to [CFS-Communications@fao.org](mailto:CFS-Communications@fao.org) for forwarding to FAO's Conference Services interpreters. All statements and presentations received from session speakers will be posted on the CFS 51 webpage (in their original language).

**Enquiries:** Please contact the CFS Secretariat at [cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org).

**More information:** Please visit the [CFS 51 webpage](#) where latest news, documents and updates will be posted.

## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (for information and for decision)

The Membership of the Committee will be confirmed, the CFS 51 Provisional Agenda and Timetable adopted, and the Drafting Committee appointed.

### Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/1/Rev.1 – CFS 51 Provisional Agenda
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.1 – CFS 51 Provisional Timetable
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.2 – Guide to CFS 51 (this document)
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.4 – Membership List
- CFS 2023/51/2 – Guide to the Preparation of the CFS 51 Final Report

## II. HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY (for information)

The CFS Ministerial Segment at CFS 51 will open with statements by the following individuals, or their delegates (whose statements will be posted on the CFS 51 Statements webpage):

- The UN Secretary-General;
- The Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
- The President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- The Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP);
- The President of the General Assembly;
- The President of ECOSOC;
- The Chair of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE-FSN) Steering Committee; and
- The CFS Chairperson.

## III. STRENGTHENING COORDINATED POLICY RESPONSES TO THE FOOD CRISIS - THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2023 (for information and discussion)

This year, the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report estimates that between 691 and 783 million people in the world faced hunger in 2022. Considering the midrange (approximately 735 million), 122 million more people faced hunger in 2022 than in 2019, before the global pandemic. It is projected that almost 600 million people will be chronically undernourished in 2030. This is roughly 119 million more than in a scenario in which neither the pandemic nor the war in Ukraine had occurred, and around 23 million more than if the war in Ukraine had not happened. Moreover, it is estimated that more than 3.1 billion people in the world – or 42 percent – were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021.

### **Session Rollout:**

Following a presentation of the 2023 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, and a keynote intervention on promoting and protecting people's right to food, the Committee will engage in a High-Level Debate on coordinated policy responses to the global food crisis and on advancing food systems transformation for the achievement of food security and nutrition and the Right to Adequate Food, including inter alia: the importance of stepping up humanitarian responses; supporting smallholders and family farmers; stabilizing food prices and markets and the key role of trade; enhancing nutrition-sensitive social protection systems; and ways to equip countries with required financial resources. High-level heads of delegation will be provided with the opportunities to intervene first. Moreover, the session will feature national statements and the voices of the most affected and key interventions from relevant CFS stakeholders.

If needed, item III will continue Tuesday morning, as a parallel session alongside the Plenary Hall dialogue, to provide an opportunity for delegates who were unable to intervene on Monday, 23 October, to deliver their national statements

### **Guiding questions:**

- a. How is the current food crisis impacting people and communities in your country/within your constituency and how you are ensuring that the voices of the most affected are heard?
- b. Which context-specific policy responses are being implemented?
- c. How do your country's/constituencies' responses to the current food crisis align with food system transformation efforts?
- d. What actions are needed at the regional and global level to support your national efforts?

The outcome of the session will be captured in a *Chairperson's Summary* to be prepared and circulated after Plenary.

### **Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/Inf.15 – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 Report

## **IV. GLOBAL 'INTERLINKAGES' DIALOGUES (for information and discussion)**

This 75-minute session, moderated by the CFS Chairperson, will reflect on the interconnectedness of food security and nutrition with other global issues and processes, touching on the 2023 UN SDG Summit, reflecting on the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment 2023, and considering the potential of the 2024 Summit of the Future. The session's focus will be on food systems transformation with participants reflecting on:

- i. the key contribution of the SDG and the Right to Food to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- ii. the intersection of food systems with climate change, exploring possible high-level interventions from the host governments of UNFCCC COP 27 (Egypt) and COP 28 (UAE);
- iii. the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), resulting from COP 15 in 2022, will further explore how preserving biodiversity in support of resilient food systems can contribute to global food security and nutrition goals and vice-versa; and

- iv. specific threats on food security and nutrition coming from desertification, as they emerged at the UNCCD COP 15 in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and how sustainable food systems transformation may lead to effective measures to combat desertification.
- Reference documents (with links): SDG Summit Political Declaration; the GBF Framework; a briefing note on "Future Agenda" and outcomes of the UNFSS +2 stocking event.

## V. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT (GEWE) IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for decision)

The final version of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment (GEWE) in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, resulting from an inclusive multi-stakeholder negotiation process within an Open-Ended Working Group, will be presented for consideration and endorsement by CFS Plenary.

The Guidelines are intended to provide concrete policy guidance mainstreaming a gender perspective into policies and interventions across agriculture and food systems, at all levels. They are aimed at fostering greater policy coherence among the GEWE and food security and nutrition agendas and promote coordination and mutually reinforcing policy measures. This supports women's and girls' participation and empowerment and creates impetus to address the root causes of gender inequalities across a range of connected issues, as the most effective ways to improve food security and nutrition outcomes for all – women themselves, their family, community and society.

The session will also represent an opportunity for CFS members and stakeholders to share views on how to promote GEWE enhancing policy coherence among different agendas and considering cross-cutting issues. Furthermore it provides an occasion to present ideas for the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines and proposals on how to promote their dissemination, use and application at global, regional, country, and local levels, as a useful tool in the hands of policy makers and development partners to promote policy measures, laws, programmes, investment plans and innovative partnerships that are conducive to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, taking into account country ownership and consistent with the 2030 Agenda.

### **Session Rollout:**

The morning segment of the session is dedicated to a discussion on, and endorsement of, the Voluntary Guidelines.

- Presentation of the final draft of the Guidelines
- Keynote remarks
- Interventions from the floor

The afternoon segment of the session will focus on the uptake of the Guidelines and the role of implementing partners, concluding with the perspective of a rural woman in celebration of the International Day of Rural Women. A draft decision will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Plenary on [insert date?] Wednesday afternoon of the CFS Plenary.

**Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/3 – CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition
- CFS 2023/51/4 – CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Decision

## VI. VI. LEVERAGING THE USE OF DATA FOR DRIVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION POLICY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING COLLECTION AND USE OF FSN DATA AND RELATED ANALYSIS TOOLS (for decision)

Following the release of a dedicated report by CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) in September 2022, and multi-stakeholder consultations and negotiations in 2022 and 2023, this session expects to seek plenary endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations.

This session will also provide an opportunity for CFS stakeholders to share ideas and proposals on how to promote dissemination, use and application of the policy recommendations at all levels, including in coordination and in support of other efforts. This will contribute to strengthening the production, analysis, dissemination and use of food security and nutrition data and statistics that are key to inform local, national and global policies and actions that promote food security and better nutrition.

**Session Rollout:**

- Presentation of the final draft of the policy recommendations by Mr Anthony Murithii (Kenya), Rapporteur of the CFS Data Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG)
- Endorsement of the policy recommendations
  - Keynote remarks
- Interventions and commitments of Members and Participants from the floor.

A draft decision will be presented for discussion and endorsement by Plenary on Wednesday afternoon.

**Background Documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/5 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) 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

- CFS 2023/51/6 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) 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 – Draft Decision

## VII. CFS STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARD 2030: THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPoW) 2024-2027 (for decision)

This session, moderated by the CFS Chairperson, will conclude a year-long process which began with consultations at CFS50 on critical, emerging and enduring issues for food security and nutrition, and continued in the context of Open Meetings and Bureau and Advisory Group meetings throughout the intersessional period.

### **Session Rollout:**

The CFS Chairperson will present the 2024-2027 CFS MYPoW and related Draft Decision for endorsement by the Committee. Following endorsement, the CFS Chair will invite interventions based on the following guiding questions:

- a. How does your Government/constituency plan to actively engage in various MYPoW activities to maximize - from the outset - impact at country and regional level?
- b. The effective implementation of the CFS thematic workstreams will require broader partnerships with relevant actors for each of the thematic areas. Who should CFS engage with at the global/regional/national level?
- c. How do you foresee the adoption and adaptation in your national policies/business models of current and future CFS policy agreements?
- d. What may increase the impact of CFS on the ground?

A draft decision will be presented for discussion and endorsement by Plenary on Wednesday afternoon.

### **Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/7 – CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027
- CFS 2023/51/8 – CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 – Draft Decision
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.16 – CFS Annual Progress Report 2023

## VIII. ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF INEQUALITIES: REDUCING INEQUALITIES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for discussion)

This agenda item marks the beginning of the CFS policy convergence process on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition. The objectives of this session are to provide plenary with an opportunity to discuss the relevant policy findings of the HLPE-FSN Report on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition and give guidance on the issues to be addressed in the development of the policy convergence process on this topic.

### Session Rollout:

This agenda item will be divided into two parts:

#### Part 1:

- The Chairperson of the CFS HLPE-FSN Steering Committee, Mr Bernard Lehmann, will introduce the HLPE report.
- The HLPE-FSN Project Team Leader, Mr Bhavani Shankar, will present an overview of the main findings and recommendations of the HLPE-FSN Report, focusing on implications for the upcoming CFS policy convergence process.

#### Part 2:

Delegates will have an opportunity to ask questions about the report's findings and the recommendations. Delegates are encouraged to share their views based on the following guiding questions:

- a. What are the priority policy areas to be addressed by the CFS policy convergence process?
- b. How do inequalities within agriculture and food systems (e.g., income inequalities, unequal access to and control over assets, etc.) impede opportunities for many actors to overcome food insecurity and malnutrition?
- c. Are there any relevant initiatives and experiences on reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition that CFS can build upon?

Draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Plenary on Thursday afternoon [insert date?].

#### **Background Documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/9 – Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.17 – HLPE-FSN Report (2023) on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition

## IX. PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2)

At the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) held in 2014, FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) committed to the goal of ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and articulated in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition a common vision for global action. They also agreed on a voluntary Framework for Action to achieve this goal. In 2016, CFS agreed to allocate time every two years in its annual session to discuss progress in implementing ICN2 policies and actions relevant to CFS. Following the first progress reports at CFS 44, 46 and 49, FAO and WHO will present a further progress report.

This section will consist of:

- Presentations by representatives from FAO and WHO on the progress made in following up on ICN2 commitments and in implementing the Decade of Action on Nutrition, including the development and implementation of the Decade's Work Programme.



- Q&A session

Draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Plenary on Thursday afternoon.

**Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/10 – Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.18 – Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition

## X. MONITORING CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRICE VOLATILITY AND FOOD SECURITY AND ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for information and discussion)

At a time of unprecedented threats to food security and nutrition, in a dynamically evolving global environment, the current global food crisis is impacting food security at all levels and affecting the most vulnerable hardest. As such, price volatility appears as a major challenge adversely affecting household incomes and purchasing power, pushing vulnerable people into hunger and poverty. In this context, social protection mechanisms and programmes gain particular attraction to mitigate vulnerability and tackle food insecurity and hunger for households and individuals.

This CFS 51 monitoring event will take stock of the uptake of two sets of CFS policy recommendations: on [Price Volatility and Food Security](#) (endorsed in 2011, CFS37), and on [Social Protection for Food Security & Nutrition](#) (endorsed in 2012, CFS 39). These two sets of policy recommendations identify a series of *action points* targeted to governments and all relevant stakeholders to address the structural causes of food price volatility and ensure that its impact do not undermine producers and consumers' right to food; and to design and implement, or strengthen, social protection systems for food security and nutrition, respectively. The session also provides an opportunity to reflect on the challenges posed by the current global food crisis. This includes the impacts of price volatility on the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable and the role of social protection mechanisms as a means to mitigate vulnerability and tackle food insecurity and hunger

The event is informed by the documented experiences and good practices of a broad range of stakeholders in the use and application of these CFS policy recommendations and will contribute to monitoring progress in implementing these two sets of recommendations at global, regional and national levels.

**Session Rollout:**

The Monitoring Session focusing on the use and application of policy recommendations regarding Price Volatility and Food Security, as well as Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition, is planned to open with introductory remarks by the CFS Chair. This will be followed by keynote interventions from Mr. Seth Meyer, Chairperson of the Agricultural Market Systems (AMIS); a high-

level representative from the World Food Programme (WFP); and former Prime Minister of Guinea, H.E. Mohamed Beavogui.

A panel discussion led by Mr. Maximo Torero, Chief Economist at FAO, will concentrate on the use and application of the CFS policy recommendations regarding Price Volatility, Food Security, and Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition. The discussion will also touch upon the challenges that the current global food crisis poses to food security and nutrition, particularly for the most vulnerable. Representatives from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific (TBC), as well as from Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and the Private Sector Mechanisms, will share documented experiences, emphasizing good practices and highlighting the constraints and challenges faced during the implementation of these policy recommendations. A high-level IFAD representative will provide a segue to the dialogue with the plenary participants following the panel discussion. The event aims to reflect on the CFS policy recommendations, their application, uptake, and relevance in today's context, facilitate knowledge exchange, identify effective strategies, stimulate further global collaboration and policy coordination within this framework to address urgent challenges in food security and nutrition.

#### **Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/Inf.19 – Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition: *Secretariat's analysis of the contributions received*
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.20 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security, endorsed at CFS 37 in 2011
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.21 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition, endorsed at CFS 39 in 2012

#### **Guiding questions:**

- a. What are the key experiences and best practices in applying the policy recommendations from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on Price Volatility and Food Security, as well as Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition? How/have these recommendations been used to address the underlying causes of food price volatility and strengthen social protection systems for food security?
- b. How have these two sets of policy recommendations been adapted to meet the specific needs of populations facing food insecurity in different contexts?
- c. What are the most prominent constraints and challenges in applying these policy recommendations to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable populations?
- d. Considering the current global food crisis, are these policy recommendations relevant today in achieving food security and nutrition all while advancing towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

## CFS 51 SPECIAL EVENT

Food security remains a critical global issue, exacerbated by various drivers such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts. Achieving the right to adequate food for all requires concerted efforts and the implementation of effective policies and guidelines. This year's Special Event aims to highlight the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. Inspired by the SDG summit in September 2023 and ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines, the event will feature country experiences, good practices, challenges and reflect on ongoing efforts covering the wide range of approaches and initiatives from different stakeholders at all levels. Through an interactive dialogue with CFS stakeholders the event will reflect on past experiences and look into future opportunities.

## XI. OTHER MATTERS (for decision)

During this item, a new CFS Chairperson will be elected, and new Bureau Members and their Alternates will be presented for decision. Arrangements for the CFS 52 Plenary Session in October 2024 will be discussed. The CFS 51 Final Report, presented by the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, will also be adopted (advanced electronic copies of the Final Report will be available Friday 27 October 2023).

### **Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/Inf.22 – Election of the CFS Chairperson

## NOTE ON SIDE EVENTS

To enrich and complement the CFS 51 Plenary and give partners and other stakeholders an opportunity to highlight their work, CFS invited its Members, Participants and other global food security and nutrition stakeholders to apply for 36 side event spaces – four side events per side event slot:

- Monday from 13:30 to 14:45 Rome time
- Tuesday to Friday from 8:30 to 9:45 and 13:30 to 14:45 Rome time

Side events have been selected by the CFS Chairperson from among an unprecedented number of applications received. A full schedule of all side events will be available on the [CFS 51 webpage](#).

For questions on the CFS 51 side events, contact the CFS Secretariat: [CFS-side-events@fao.org](mailto:CFS-side-events@fao.org)