CFS 51 SIDE EVENTS GUIDANCE NOTE

THEMATIC FOCUS, SCENARIOS AND CRITERIA

BACKGROUND
The 51st Plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 51) will be held from 23 to 27 October 2023. A provisional Timetable and Agenda are available on the CFS 51 web-page. In addition to the formal plenary sessions, CFS invites its Members, Participants and other global food security and nutrition stakeholders to apply for side event spaces. Side event applications will be selected from among applications received before the formal deadline of XX by the CFS Chairperson. They will be convened virtually (with few exceptions) over the 5 days of Plenary - during mornings, mid-day, and the late afternoon periods. These 75-minute side events are intended to enrich and complement the CFS 51 Plenary sessions by highlighting work of relevance to the vision and mandate of CFS, especially where CFS policy guidelines and frameworks are being effectively utilized to foster partnerships for advancing the 2030 Agenda - in particular, SDG-2.

1. THEMATIC FOCUS AND SOLICITATION
Of the approved side events, a certain portion will reflect the major issues and/or topics that are prioritized for the CFS 2024-2027 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) while others will include the launch of significant studies or reports by partners which relate to the CFS mandate and vision, with others contributing to ongoing effort to coordinate global policy responses to the food crisis while driving long-term food systems transformation by reflecting 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-FSN).

2. CRITERIA, GUIDANCE AND CONDITIONS
The CFS 51 side events will be reviewed and selected using the following criteria:

1. Side Events must be relevant to CFS’s vision and mandate; ideally, the core theme and strategic objective of the event should be relevant to the core topics and issues that are under consideration in the context of the CFS MYPoW 2024-2027 preparation, or previous policy products that remain especially relevant to the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.
2. Priority will be given to applications that reflect the CFS multi-stakeholder model and that include a variety of CFS constituencies. Issues such as gender parity among speakers and panellists, diverse geographic representation, and youth presence will be positively considered.
3. Side Events should maximize interactivity with a minimum of 30%-50% of the total time allocated for interaction with the audience. A maximum of 5-6 speakers including co-chairs is recommended.

4. In the event that two or more side event applications are received on a similar theme, organizers may be asked to consider merging their proposals. Such a request to merge is not obligatory, but may positively increase the prospects for its selection.

5. While interpretation in FAO’s official languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and/or Chinese) is not mandatory (and entails set costs charged by FAO), utilizing interpretation to maximize inclusiveness may also positively affect final selection decisions.

6. Following each side event, organizers must prepare a 500-word summary regarding outcomes and key observations from the event, within two weeks of CFS 51. These summaries will be posted on the CFS 51 side events webpage in their original languages. Failure to submit such a summary by the deadline may be detrimental to future side event application decisions.