

STRENGTHENING COORDINATED POLICY RESPONSES TO THE FOOD CRISIS.

Towards integrated response frameworks

DRAFT 4 APRIL

Executive summary

In line with its first strategic objective and in accordance with the conclusions of the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Ministerial Segment, CFS will leverage its convening power to bring together key stakeholders to discuss policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the ongoing global food crisis. To this end, CFS¹ will convene a High Level Special Event (HLSE) to take place in Rome in July 25 (or 26 TBC), during the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment, with the technical support of relevant UN entities and in full coordination with the Global Crisis Response Group. The outcome of the HLSE – a co-Chair’s Synthesis Report- will serve as the background document of the the CFS 51 Ministerial Segment on Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World. The HLSE will be preceded by a series of substantive debates, serving as a preparatory debates.

Background

The compounding challenges of supply chain disruptions, climate change related shocks, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, financial tightening through rising interest rates, debts and inflation, and conflicts including the year-old war in Ukraine have resulted in what the UN Secretary-General’s Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance (GCRG) has described as once-in-a-generation cost-of-living crisis that has affected governments, communities and households. As a result, the world is witnessing unprecedented levels of hunger, malnutrition and poverty, undermining efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while further exacerbating inequalities.

As a global intergovernmental committee that reports to the UN General Assembly and to FAO Conference, CFS brings together 138 Member States and multistakeholders. According to its mandate, CFS can play a key role in strengthening collaborative action among governments, regional organizations, international organizations and agencies, NGOs, CSOs, food producers’ organizations, private sector organizations, philanthropic organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, in a manner that is supportive of and aligned to countries’ efforts, specific context and needs.

In working towards this aim, CFS and the 76th President of the General Assembly co-convened a High-Level Special Event to foster coordinated global policy responses to the current food crisis in New York on 18 July 2022, supported by and in support of GCRG. Discussions on coordinating policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis also took place in substantive segments of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings throughout the year and at the High-Level Ministerial Segment of the 50th Plenary Session of CFS in October 2022.

These discussions resulted in the identification of **six** core elements of integrated responses to the crisis at the global, regional, country and local levels:

1. Step up humanitarian response, in all humanitarian crises.
2. Stabilize markets and prices, and avoid unnecessary trade barriers and restrictions.
3. Support and protect smallholder and family farmers, cooperatives and SMEs, encouraging increased local production and consumption, while reducing food loss and food waste.
4. Restore the availability and affordability of inputs including fertilizers, coupled with increased efficiency, unleashing the full potential of agroecology and other innovative approaches.
5. Reinforce and expand nutrition-sensitive social protection floors/systems.
6. Equip countries with the financial resources, fiscal space and funds needed.

Contributing to enhance integrated response frameworks to a multidimensional crisis

At CFS 50, the Committee called on leveraging the convening power of CFS to strengthen coordinated global policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis, including through, but not limited to, regular discussions on substantive issues that affect the global food security crisis in the agendas of Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, as well as the continued engagement of the CFS Chairperson, HLPE-FSN, Secretariat and autonomous mechanisms of CFS within the GCRG.

In follow up to this commitment, CFS¹ convene an open, inclusive and evidence-informed deliberation process on the policy responses to the current food, energy and financial crisis that are needed at the country level to protect and advance the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

High Level Special Event (HLSE) and CFS 51 Ministerial Segment

To this end, and in continuation to the joint efforts in 2022, CFS will co-convene a **High Level Special Event (HLSE)** to take place in Rome in July 25 (or 26 TBC), as part of the official program of the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment as one of its Special Events. The background documents to this HLSE will be prepared by the relevant UN entities in full synergy with the GCRG, and the CFS high Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) building on the rich stock of relevant universally agreed CFS policy guidance, as appropriate. The co-chair's Summary will input to the SDG Summit in September.

Outcome: a non-negotiated co-Chairs' report is produced and disseminated, as a reference framework to structure global, regional, national and sub-national responses to the crisis that speed up food systems transformations. Title to be decided.

Impact: substantive improvement to the convergence and coherence of responses to the crisis, including between immediate responses and longer term food systems transitions, and at all levels, prioritizing those most affected.

The Chair's report will feed into the **CFS 51 Ministerial Session on Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World**.

The deliberations at CFS 51 will inform a final, non-negotiated Synthesis Report prepared by the CFS Chairperson.

¹ Co-convened with the 77th President of the General Assembly, TBC

Substantive Thematic Sessions

The HLSE will be preceded by preparatory Substantive Thematic Sessions that will be convened as part of the agenda of the CFS Joint Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, with the following focus and calendar (TBC):

Session 1	Kick-start Session. A global multi-dimensional shock. Whose Crisis? <i>People first</i>	UNCTAD SG and Co-leads of the GCRG to present an overview of the crisis, immediate and future outlook and ongoing work to address it. Focus will be on who is suffering most and where.	End April
Session 2	Ensuring access: Deliver nutrition sensitive-social protection <i>People's resilience</i>	Against the backdrop of 'peoples first', enhance social protection systems that are needed to prevent a slide into poverty of those in vulnerable situations, including through well-proven nutrition-focused systems such as school meals or cash transfers.	Mid May
Session 3	Protecting livelihoods: Support smallholder and Family Farmers, SMEs, FS workers while enhancing local production <i>Livelihoods' resilience</i>	Against the backdrop of 'peoples first', explore measures for increased local production and consumption of diverse food varieties, supporting and protecting smallholder and family farmers, cooperatives and SMEs	Mid June
Session 4	Protecting ecosystems: Enhance efficiency <i>Planet's resilience</i>	Boost efficiency in the use of inputs, energy and fertilizers, protect biodiversity and soils, accelerate climate action and restore ecosystems, unleashing the full potential of agroecology and other innovative approaches to sustainable agriculture, reducing food loss and waste	Mid July
HLSE	Integrated Responses to the Food Crises; accelerating Food Systems Transformation		25 or 26 July
Session 5 (TBC)	Means of implementation: Finance and resource the responses, to drive transition	Equip countries with the financial resources, fiscal space and funds to support and protect their people, while speeding up the transition to more resilient and sustainable food systems	Early October
CFS 51 Ministerial session	Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World		23-24 October

- All sessions will include the voices of the most affected, of the business community, of science, of the GCRG and will consider crosscutting issues including gender-responsive policies, youth engagement and the resources needed (at least)
- The sessions will be hybrid.
- Key targeted audience: national food security coordination platforms, key government officials and policy makers, permanent representatives to the UN in Rome, Geneva, Nairobi, New York and other UN hubs.