



# **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**

**(Final draft)**

## **RATIONALE**

1. High-quality, timely and relevant Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) data is one key tool to inform local, national and global actions, as well as public policies, that promote and improve food security and nutrition. Capacities to produce, interpret and use FSN data, and institutional arrangements that promote the use of data to guide FSN policy, are essential to understand the impacts of policies and determine which policies are successful and which policies should be changed. In line with the approved CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023, the purpose of this document is to provide specific and actionable voluntary policy recommendations for strengthening the capacities of all stakeholders, especially governments, involved in the collection, analysis, dissemination, protection and the use of quality FSN data, towards enhancing effective, inclusive, evidence-informed decision making. The overall goal is to contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in the context of national food security, as well as to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its targets. The recommendations are informed by the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) Report 17 “Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition: towards enhancing effective, inclusive, evidence-informed decision making” (2022).

2. There is no multilaterally agreed definition of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data, including within the UN Statistical Commission – the UN Body mandated to develop such definitions, as needed. For the purpose of these policy recommendations, data relevant to inform FSN policies will be referred to as Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data. Throughout this document, FSN data is understood to be “data of diverse types, sources and sensitivities to describe and/or measure individual or collective food security and nutrition outcomes, and data

relating to micro, meso or macro-level determinants influencing outcomes across the four pillars of food security: availability, access, utilization, stability<sup>1 2</sup>”.

3. This understanding recognizes the importance of different types of data, qualitative as well as quantitative, and of adopting a systemic view for FSN data, which highlights the fundamental roles of all actors spanning the food system, in the production and assessment of relevant FSN data.

4. It is important to note that extensive FSN data already exists and is produced in a variety of ways, by different stakeholders, at least for some dimensions of food security, albeit with varying degrees of quality and granularity. However, they are often not equally accessible, not sufficiently processed or analyzed, nor properly utilized by policymakers, who are often unaware of the existence and relevance of such data, and resources to store, process and analyze them are distributed inequitably. Data relevant to inform FSN policies are often housed across diverse sectors and organizations and, as a result, the ability of decision-makers to make informed policy decisions is impeded by the culmination of challenges along each step of the data cycle.<sup>3</sup>

5. Indigenous Peoples, peasants and other small-scale food producers have a variety of methods to generate, collect, store, and use data that are often not considered in standard data collection systems and in FSN decision-making. It is important to recognize the significance of these data for FSN and FSN decision-making at local and national level, and to support the effective, inclusive and meaningful participation of those who generate and manage these data, information, and knowledge, while respecting their human rights and protecting their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

6. Fundamental data gaps still exist. There is a need to address these gaps to effectively guide responsible action and inform policymaking, especially timely and sufficiently granular data on peoples’ ability to produce and access food, on food and nutrient consumption, and on nutritional status, while recognizing the importance of safeguarding privacy. More data and information from actors across agriculture and food systems, that shed light on the structural determinants of FSN, and on the FSN of those in vulnerable situations and those subject to

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<sup>1</sup> The HLPE-FSN and other FSN stakeholders consider ‘agency’ and ‘sustainability’ as additional, evolving dimensions of food security, though they are not multilaterally agreed.

<sup>2</sup> See Annex Table 1 on page 129 of [HLPE-FSN report #17](#) – which is not multilaterally agreed – for some examples of existing FSN data-related initiatives (including database, repositories, data systems and analysis tools), organized by dimension of food security and nutrition.

<sup>3</sup> The data cycle comprises the following steps: defining priorities and data needs; reviewing, consolidating, collecting and curating data; analyzing the data using appropriate tools; translating data into relevant insights to be disseminated and discussed; and, finally, using data for decision-making.

various forms of discrimination<sup>4</sup>, and on geographical regions, are also needed. Countries have different data priorities and needs, depending on their statistical capacity, access to technology, financing resources, socio-economic conditions, as well as national FSN contexts.

7. Data, information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges, and there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies and data collection and analysis, stressing the need to close the digital divides, both between and within countries. Several other constraints limit the use of data for effective data-informed policy action on FSN. Among them is the low and imbalanced level of data literacy and analysis skills (for both qualitative and quantitative data) on the part of some data and information producers and users, at all levels – from data collectors and analysts to decision-makers, and to the people, as rights' holders, and the ultimate beneficiaries of food security and nutrition policies.

8. Developing countries need financial and technical support, including statistical capacity building, voluntary technology transfers on mutually-agreed terms, as well as innovative frameworks such as south-south and triangular cooperation, among others, to strengthen their capacities to make responsible investments<sup>5</sup> and to generate, collect, and analyze high-quality data, and use it to guide decision-making related to FSN. Insufficient allocation of financial resources to agricultural development and FSN programmes is a long-standing concern for many countries, and the lack of public, private, and international funding have clear consequences for data relevant to inform FSN policies.

9. FSN statistical data are often not standardized and often fragmented across different international agencies<sup>6</sup>, government sectors, public and private institutions, and they may be collected or managed using different protocols, making them difficult to use. Therefore, it is a priority to strengthen voluntary, national, regional, and international coordination efforts to explore global digital cooperation, taking into account the UN Secretary-General's Data Strategy<sup>7</sup> and his Roadmap for digital cooperation<sup>8</sup>, which will be essential for comparison and to realize the full potential of statistical data utilization, striving for an equitable world. Better

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<sup>4</sup> As found in CFS *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*, para 3.6.1b, page 22

<sup>5</sup> The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) endorsed the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

<sup>6</sup> FAO is the custodian of 21 SDG indicators, including indicators 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2., 2.5.1a, 2.5.1b, 2.5.2, 2.a.1 and 2.c.1, related to ending hunger, achieving food security, and improve nutrition, as well as promoting sustainable agriculture.

<sup>7</sup> Available at [https://www.un.org/en/content/datastrategy/images/pdf/UN\\_SG\\_Data-Strategy.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/content/datastrategy/images/pdf/UN_SG_Data-Strategy.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Available at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/102/51/PDF/N2010251.pdf>

coordination and harmonization across international organizations, government sectors, and public and private institutions should be encouraged to improve the quality and utility of FSN statistical data, while creating synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts and confusion when communicating information. Harmonization is particularly relevant for FSN statistics that are used for global or regional analyses and monitoring.

10. The number of state and non-state actors that play a role in FSN data collection and use is growing exponentially. It is our collective goal of ensuring that people are at the heart of decisions, when collecting, analyzing and using data, working to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. People should have a say in data collection that affect their lives and should be included in decisions related to data use and re-use. FSN data systems should be guided by clear principles<sup>9</sup> (in particular participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment, and rule of law), in line with applicable domestic law and effective and participatory processes, to help ensure that FSN data is collected, used, analyzed and disseminated in ways that are effective, non-discriminatory, inclusive, consistent with human rights, transparent, ethical, and equitable, while applying applicable data privacy, data protection, and intellectual property safeguards and principles to ensure that such data are protected, while addressing conflicts of interest.

11. The complex array of public and private actors involved in FSN data, coupled with the rapidly changing data ecosystem due-to digital transformation, creates opportunities as well as risks and brings to centre stage the need for global coordination to improve FSN data governance. Governance frameworks for FSN data should strike the right balance between access and sharing and protection, privacy, and security, with the aim of creating trust and confidence. Developing and strengthening of national FSN data governance frameworks should take into account applicable broader global, multilateral discussions and efforts to improve data governance. It is important for FSN data to be widely accessible, broadly circulated and used in the public interest, while at the same time preserving the rights of data originators and data owners, taking into account national legislation and regulations, working to ensure data protection, and privacy, and taking steps to address imbalances in power among actors with respect to generating, accessing, collecting, storing, processing, sharing and using FSN data, which could worsen inequalities.

12. These policy recommendations are addressed primarily to Governments (relevant ministries, national, regional and local authorities and institutions), international

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<sup>9</sup> As found in *CFS Voluntary Guidelines to Support the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of national food security*, paragraph 7, page 2 and in *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*, paragraph 48, page 8.

organizations<sup>10</sup>, international financial and FSN research institutions, private sector associations, philanthropies, rural development experts, universities and academic institutions, and civil society organizations. They are voluntary and non-binding and aim to complement other CFS policy recommendations and guidelines. They should be interpreted and applied consistently with existing obligations under national and international law, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments and in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. CREATE GREATER AWARENESS AND DEMAND FOR BETTER USE OF FSN DATA IN DECISION-MAKING

#### **Governments should strive to:**

- a) establish – or, when appropriate, strengthen existing – effective national multi-sectoral and multistakeholder FSN mechanisms responsible for guiding FSN policy and programme planning, linked to national development planning, and for setting local, national, regional and global priorities for better production and use of data in FSN decision-making, aligned to required analysis, within the data and statistical systems, to inform these policies. Such mechanisms should ensure that civil society, academia, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, those in vulnerable situations and those subject to various forms of discrimination<sup>11</sup>, and other relevant stakeholders have an active and well-defined role in determining priorities;
- b) promote and facilitate dialogues and cooperation among a broad range of relevant stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels to develop concrete and feasible recommendations, facilitated by the aforementioned multi-sectoral FSN mechanisms, taking into consideration existing power imbalances between different actors and encouraging active, free, effective, and meaningful participation, in order to 1) discuss FSN data priorities, identifying what is already available<sup>12</sup> and what are the most urgent needs; 2) stimulate analysis of existing data to produce information that is relevant for FSN policies and programmes at regional, national and local levels; and 3) discuss the most effective means/platforms to disseminate the FSN data, (e.g. a one-stop shop platform, among others);

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<sup>10</sup> Throughout the document, *international organizations* refer, among others, to the UN Rome-based Agencies (FAO, IFAD, and WFP), other inter-governmental organizations, both international and regional, with a mandate related to food security and nutrition, as well as International Financial Institutions.

<sup>11</sup> As found in *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*, paragraph 3.6.1b, page 22.

<sup>12</sup> There may be a need for taking stock of available FSN data being collected by different agencies across seasons and levels (national, sub-national, local) to identify fundamental gaps and most appropriate data sources for both qualitative and quantitative data.

- c) use FSN data from varying sources taking into account quality, timeliness, costs, the burden on respondents, as well as results of prior risk assessments, providing evidence on the benefits of using this data in assisting policy-makers in decision-making;
- d) whenever data is used to inform FSN-related national legislation and public policies, include, as necessary, detailed data annexes, presenting available data sources and the analytic tools used for their development;
- e) promote the regular production and dissemination by government units responsible for collecting, storing, processing, analyzing and disseminating FSN-data of knowledge products informed by FSN data that summarize the main findings resulting from government data collection initiatives in user-friendly and inclusive formats that facilitate the use and uptake of information by decision-makers, including rural actors, and those in vulnerable situations, especially in remote areas.

**International<sup>13</sup> organizations are encouraged to:**

- f) foster dialogue, collaboration and coordination on good practices, for FSN data-driven decision-making, according to national priorities;
- g) foster debates within their governing bodies, as appropriate, on the need to develop guidelines on data-informed ex-ante and ex-post policy evaluation in the FSN domain;
- h) develop and promote tailor-made capacity development and training courses with the aim of supporting targeted stakeholders in FSN data use.

**Civil Society, Private Sector, Indigenous Peoples, and Research Institutions are urged to:**

- i) use existing FSN data in advocacy efforts towards all stakeholders, especially decision-makers and governments, to further research and development of knowledge products that seek to bridge existing FSN data gaps, towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in context of national food security.

**International organizations<sup>14</sup>, donors and governments are encouraged to:**

- j) request and use relevant FSN data that already exist and promote inter-operability, where possible, thus avoiding duplication of efforts, and contributing to efficiency and timeliness of efforts.

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<sup>13</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

## **2. INCREASE AND SUSTAIN INVESTMENT IN THE COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND ENHANCEMENT OF QUALITY AND PRIORITIZED FSN DATA, WHILE OPTIMIZING AND/OR REPURPOSING CURRENT RESOURCES, TO IMPROVE DECISION-MAKING, FOR THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY**

### **Governments should strive to:**

- a) with the support of international organizations<sup>15</sup>, and donors, where appropriate, increase and sustain responsible investment and adequate resources for the production of timely, quality, disaggregated<sup>16</sup>, where relevant, reliable and consistent FSN data, on peoples' ability to produce and access food and healthy diets, on their food consumption and dietary patterns, and on their nutritional status, particularly of those in vulnerable situations, and other national prioritized data, as well as resources for the development of quality national standards and good practices for their use;
- b) elaborate national plans, through participatory processes and approaches, to define priorities for FSN data collection and analysis, to be integrated in their national strategies for the development of statistics, if existing, and to improve and optimize existing national FSN data systems, taking into account the different types of data from different sources. Governments that require assistance in implementing these plans could, upon request, be supported both technically and financially by international organizations<sup>17</sup>, and donors, as appropriate, and their plans are recommended to be aligned with applicable international standards and good practices, while preserving national priorities and country ownership;
- c) regularly review existing national data-collection systems<sup>18</sup> relevant for FSN, through participatory processes, with the aim of identifying gaps, opportunities, and risks to streamline and modernize them, and enhance their efficiency and relevance, beyond statistical data collection, according to national priorities and domestic laws, and with due regard to applicable international standards and good practices.

### **International organizations<sup>19</sup> are encouraged to:**

- d) foster FSN data collection at country level and provide guidance to countries, upon the request of national governments, outlining a minimum set of core FSN data, with respective

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<sup>15</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>16</sup> Disaggregated by sex and age, and other established demographic criteria and socio-economic variables, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration.

<sup>17</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>18</sup> National data-collection systems include, among others: administrative records, geospatial information, sensor data and other data not necessarily collected for statistical purposes, as well as traditional statistical operations, i.e. surveys and censuses.

<sup>19</sup> See footnote 10.

recommended methodologies and indicators, to help countries identify priorities when collecting FSN data.

**Governments, international organizations<sup>20</sup> and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to:**

e) collaborate on identifying specific data gaps and needs required to improve existing FSN analyses as well as to continue and accelerate innovation in the areas of statistics, qualitative data, data science and survey-based research, in working towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, while addressing possible conflicts of interest.

**International organizations<sup>21</sup>, donors, governments, and philanthropic foundations are encouraged to:**

f) increase and sustain the amount of resources that are allocated to improve FSN data collection, quality enhancement, analysis, dissemination and use, as appropriate, to improve the effectiveness of FSN-relevant policies, leveraging existing financing mechanisms and assessing and re-purposing existing funding as needed. Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>22</sup>, capacity-building support to developing countries, including for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated<sup>23</sup> by characteristics relevant in national contexts should aim at ensuring that national statistical plans, in which FSN data should be embedded, are fully funded. Investments in FSN data should reflect a good balance between data for development and data for crises and emergencies, according to national needs and contexts;

g) improve coordination and alignment of investment initiatives aimed at supporting FSN data collection and analysis, taking into account data protection, privacy and security in order to avoid duplication of efforts, improve efficiency, and maximize synergies, including adding capacity-building in statistics and data work of national stakeholders, upon request of governments and according to national priorities;

h) continue to strengthen and support existing FSN data funding initiatives to help countries and other stakeholders, including, for example, local communities organizations and organizations of Indigenous Peoples, to obtain financial support to strengthen their capacities, including statistical, in order to benefit from FSN data and make decisions, taking into account data protection, privacy, and security, with a vision that such initiatives could be coordinated.

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<sup>20</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>21</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>22</sup> See SDG target 17.18 and its global monitoring framework.

<sup>23</sup> Disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.



**International organizations<sup>24</sup>, governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector are encouraged to:**

i) promote the collection, quality enhancement, analysis, and use of multiple forms of FSN data, beyond quantitative and machine-readable data, such as qualitative data and other forms of information. This implies valuing and applying multiple approaches to information collection, including participatory, qualitative methodologies and mixed-methods approaches that are used by local communities, among others, while safeguarding the rights of data originators.

### **3. DEVELOP CAPACITIES AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES AND TECHNOLOGIES NEEDED TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY OF FSN-DATA PRODUCTION CYCLE AND ANALYTIC CAPACITY FOR DECISION-MAKING**

**Governments are encouraged to:**

a) hire and invest in building the capacities of FSN statisticians, data experts and social scientists in the analysis and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative FSN-data, with knowledge of and capacity in risk-assessment and data privacy, to work in relevant ministries and national statistics offices, and incubate analytical units within relevant ministries;

b) modernize national statistics system infrastructures in order to establish inter-operable, comprehensive, coordinated FSN data systems and to sustain the independent and transparent collection of quality disaggregated<sup>25</sup> and detailed FSN data over time, with technical and financial assistance from national and international organizations<sup>26</sup> and Official Development Assistance as a means to support national efforts, upon request and according to national priorities;

c) invest in public data infrastructure, and improve, as appropriate, policy frameworks on the management of-public and private infrastructures underlying the collection, storage, processing, sharing and use of FSN data to promote equitable access to FSN data and efforts to prevent the illegal extraction of data, among other goals, recognizing the importance of the three dimensions of sustainable development<sup>27</sup>, respecting human rights, and the equitable distribution of the benefits deriving from FSN data usage;

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<sup>24</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>25</sup> Disaggregated by sex and age, and other established demographic criteria and socio-economic variables, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration.

<sup>26</sup> See footnote 11.

<sup>27</sup> The three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) are integrated, indivisible and balanced.

- d) expand training opportunities, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, for staff in national statistics offices and other government units and relevant stakeholders, including civil society, engaged in local, regional and multisectoral FSN data collection, processing and analysis, with support from national and international organizations<sup>28</sup> as appropriate, upon request, to enhance their analytic competencies.
- e) with the financial assistance from national and international organizations<sup>29</sup>, as appropriate, create targeted scholarship programmes to allow youth, especially women, and those subject to various forms of discriminations<sup>30</sup>, to study in scientific programmes related to FSN data, as understood in this document, that have a strong data focus (quantitative and qualitative), as well as data science and statistics, taking into account ancestral and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge;
- f) build capacities of other data stakeholders such as farmers, small-holders, peasants, Indigenous Peoples, fishers, pastoralists, traders, local communities, government officials, rural experts etc. in the analysis, interpretation and use of quantitative and qualitative FSN data and associated risk-assessments.

**Governments, international organizations<sup>31</sup>, and relevant stakeholders including, philanthropic foundations, private sector, civil society, and academic research institutions are encouraged to:**

- g) invest in further refinement, validation, and application of cost-saving, inclusive and participatory data collection approaches and novel sources of data while comprehensively assessing the risks within a robust data management and policy framework. Tools and technology that streamline and simplify FSN data collection while improving data quality could be used and promoted at all levels, according to national priorities and in respect of national and international legal and policy frameworks.

**Governments, international organizations<sup>32</sup> and academic research institutions are encouraged to:**

- h) prioritize capacity building in areas where current relevant FSN data availability is poor, with a focus on those countries which are lacking resources, infrastructures, data literacy and skills to fill data gaps with the goal of improving food security and nutrition<sup>33</sup>;
- i) based on participatory assessments, improve existing analytic models and develop new ones to be employed in various areas of relevance for FSN decision-making. Especially relevant

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<sup>28</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> See footnote 12.

<sup>31</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid..

<sup>33</sup> To achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

are validated model-based approaches to forecast future values of FSN determinants and outcomes. Such models should be transparent, non-discriminatory, with good quality training data, and flexibly implemented so that they can generate predictions under clear, alternative scenarios;

j) develop, in collaboration with national and international public and private training institutions, learning materials that focus on FSN data collection and data protection, quality control, analysis, interpretation and communication of results for specific types of FSN data and methodologies, including analytical models. Materials should promote an integrated understanding of the dynamic relationship between the different activity sectors, types of data and resulting indicators, taking into account the needs of small-scale food producers, workers, consumers and policy makers at multiple levels;

k) reduce language barriers by expanding the set of languages in which FSN e-learning courses, materials, literacy tools, data platforms and analysis tools are offered, and develop peer-to-peer learning, ensuring that new technologies, linguistic services and translations are accurate and reflect the intent and meaning of the original language.

**International organizations<sup>34</sup> are encouraged to:**

l) support, upon governments' request and within established frameworks, local capacities, in particular in developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, by making strong efforts to work closely with professionals from public institutions, whenever the need exists to collect and analyse FSN data at national and subnational levels, in coordination with organizations of small-scale food producers, workers, Indigenous Peoples, women, consumers and CSOs and using participatory approaches, as appropriate;

m) support national-level surveys on FSN data in combination with capacity strengthening of and knowledge-transfer to national stakeholders regarding FSN data collection and analysis tools taking into account the need for adequate resources for public institutions to improve local infrastructure and reduce technological inequalities;

n) support efforts to secure local access and input to national statistical systems in coordination with national statistics offices, respecting national ownership.

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<sup>34</sup> See footnote 10.

#### 4. COLLABORATION AMONG PARTIES ON HARMONIZATION AND SHARING OF FSN DATA

**Governments, international organizations<sup>35</sup>, and their regional bodies<sup>36</sup> are encouraged to:**

- a) Promote the harmonization, coherence, and interoperability of FSN data and relevant platforms, aimed at harmonizing methods and facilitating the sharing of FSN data, while respecting the rights of data originators and owners, data privacy and Free Prior and Informed Consent, as applicable, with inclusive collaboration of relevant sectors and stakeholders;
- b) Consider the need of addressing FSN statistics as a potential domain within the United Nations Statistical Commission, taking into account ongoing UN intergovernmental processes in this regard;
- c) publicly disseminate macro-, micro- and metadata as different sets of data that are relevant to FSN, in order to increase findability and access for policy, programmes, and research purposes, respecting confidentiality and data protection and privacy, safeguarding the rights of data originators, taking into account the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics<sup>37</sup> and the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities<sup>38</sup>, and in conformity with national laws and regulations;
- d) treat FSN data as open as possible but as closed as necessary to serve the public good, duly taking into account data privacy, data protection, the rights of data originators, confidentiality, national security, intellectual property, including its safeguards and principles, and legitimate business interests to increase the availability, access and sharing of FSN data, addressing data gaps in national and international systems, and to support efforts towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- e) in line with national laws and regulations, and in accordance with relevant human-rights frameworks, promote the use and integration of FSN data from multiple sources<sup>39</sup> and multiple sectors<sup>40</sup> related to FSN, including by promoting dialogue at technical levels as well as between technical and political levels;
- f) increase collaboration on access and sharing of data on international trade of food and non-food agricultural inputs and products, and on trade policies, including through strengthening of instruments such as the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), while

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<sup>35</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/FP-Rev2013-E.pdf> (adopted on 29 January 2014 at the highest political level as a General Assembly resolution (A/RES/68/261)

<sup>38</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub/2013docs-22nd/SA-2013-8-FP-UNSD.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> Including data produced by the private sector, indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society organizations.

<sup>40</sup> For example: food, agriculture, health, nutrition, social development, environment, budget and planning.

underscoring the importance of also collecting data on local, national and regional markets and ensuring proper protection of the data.

**International organizations<sup>41</sup> responsible for producing key FSN data are encouraged to:**

g) strengthen collaborations with governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to harmonize FSN data collection and analytical methods and indicators on important FSN domains (in particular food security assessments), noting that not all types of data can be harmonized, and in consultation with Governments, strengthen coordination on the release of datasets and knowledge products.

**Governments, international organizations, research institutions, civil society and the private sector are encouraged to:**

h) promote compliance of FSN data with existing open-access and fair use principles for data and analysis tools, such as the UNFPOS principles and with consideration as appropriate, of other complementary principles, including the FAIR principles<sup>42</sup>, continually adapting as these evolve, aiming at availability, access and re-usability of FSN data and research results, while at the same time, ensuring data protection, safeguarding the rights of data originators, respecting data privacy and intellectual property including its safeguards and principles, and seeking free prior and informed consent, as applicable, covering activities carried out for the same purposes, when sharing FSN data and while promoting fairness, inclusion and equitable distribution of benefits.

## **5. STRENGTHEN FSN DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS AND FOSTER RELATED DIALOGUE AT GLOBAL LEVEL**

**Governments are encouraged to:**

a) Include FSN data within national statistical and other relevant data systems to promote a broader national data governance anchored in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that enables the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and is consistent with UNFPOS, as appropriate, and informed by emerging international multilateral discussion on data governance frameworks. Discussions should take into consideration broader FSN principles<sup>43</sup> such as human dignity, non-discrimination, equity and justice, gender equality, participation, transparency, accountability, among others;

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<sup>41</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>42</sup> The [FAIR Principles](#) provide guidelines to improve the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse of digital assets. While recognized by international organizations and initiatives such as WHO, OECD and G20, they are not multilaterally agreed.

<sup>43</sup> As found in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), Section 3B.

b) Consider strengthening and, where necessary, developing, maintaining and implementing policies, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, to promote transparency and accountability and improve compliance by related non-state actors<sup>44</sup> with national legislation and with applicable principles and due diligence requirements<sup>45</sup>, as appropriate, regarding the collection, storage, processing, using, and sharing of FSN data and analytics, among others.

**Governments and international organizations<sup>46</sup> are encouraged to:**

c) strengthen inclusive, participatory multi-stakeholder processes to discuss the development of FSN data principles that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. This includes, ethical considerations, decision-making roles and responsibilities, and national accountability systems for the implementation and application of FSN data principles at national level.

**The private sector, civil society, academia and philanthropic foundations are encouraged to:**

d) share FSN data and analytics for the public good with governments and public institutions, and among each other, for policy and research purposes, respecting confidentiality and data privacy, and exploring mechanisms to make their FSN data more promptly and widely available, while working to ensure proper protection of the data.

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<sup>44</sup> Other actors outside of the official national data system.

<sup>45</sup> See for example the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

<sup>46</sup> See footnote 10.