



Workstreams and Activities Updates

*****These updates cover the period since the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings held on 13 March*****

1. Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition

The Second Open Ended Working Group Meeting on Reducing Inequalities for food security and nutrition was held on 12 April 2024. The inputs from this meeting, along with the written comments received by 15 April from CFS stakeholders, will inform the development of the First Draft, which is scheduled to be circulated by 8 May 2024. Language versions will follow in the second half of the month. CFS stakeholders will be able to provide written comments on the First Draft by 27 May to facilitate preparations for the first round of negotiations to be held from 3 to 7 June 2024. All the relevant background information is available in the [CFS Working Space](#).

2. In-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes at all levels

The Zero Draft of the Action Plan was prepared on the basis of written contributions submitted by OEWG members and inputs provided during the second meeting of the workstream. The Zero Draft was then circulated to the members of the OEWG on 15 April.

On 29 April an OEWG meeting was convened in which the Zero Draft was discussed. Furthermore, CFS stakeholders were invited to written comments of the Zero Draft by 6 May. These inputs, together with the outcomes of the OEWG meeting mentioned above, will inform the preparation of the Final Draft of the Action Plan, which will be released in the second half of June, as foreseen in the agreed workplan.

The last OEWG meeting is scheduled for 15 July during which the Action Plan is expected to be finalized in order for it to be presented for endorsement by the CFS Plenary in October 2024.

CFS stakeholders are kindly invited to share the link below to subscribe to the CFS Uptake mailing list with their constituencies:

<https://listserv.fao.org/scripts/wa-fao.exe?SUBED1=CFS-UPTAKE-OEWG-L&A=1>

3. Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation

A Technical Task Team (TTT) in support of the Thematic Workstream on “Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation” was as foreseen in the MYPoW under A.1.4.1. The TTT held its "kick-off" meeting on 23 April, where discussions centered on the format and content of the biannual meetings scheduled for 2024. Special attention was given to the first meeting, tentatively planned for May 2024 on the margins of the Bureau and Advisory Group sessions. The follow-up meetings of the TTT, including one held on 6 May, focused on shaping the session in May.

4. Global Thematic Event on “Advancing the Uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security”

The Call for inputs was jointly issued by the CFS and the right to food team of FAO through the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) on the use and uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. The call closed on 17 December 2023 with a total of 108 contributions. These contributions will be used to inform the analysis presented in the Summary Report, which will serve as a background document for the Global Thematic Event (GTE) of the CFS 52 Plenary Session in October 2024.

In this context, a Technical Task Team (TTT) has been established to support the preparation of the GTE. The team provides expert support for the event, and as part of their contribution, several meetings are being conducted to effectively shape the GTE.

5. Promoting decent work in agriculture

In line with the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027, the Committee will provide its platform to highlight the key role of decent work in agriculture and food systems from a Right to Food perspective and to discuss potential synergies and complementarities between CFS and ILO policy convergence work. The CFS Secretariat is working through its multistakeholder approach to prepare the CFS52 Plenary session on “Promoting decent work in agriculture” and relevant background information.

6. High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (CFS HLPE-FSN)

Four members of the HLPE-FSN took part in the “**Expert Group Meeting on SDG2 and its interlinkages with other SDGs**”, organized by FAO and UNDESA, with support of interested UN system organizations, and held from the 26 to the 27 March 2024, at FAO HQ, in Rome, Italy: the Chairperson Akiko Suwa-Eisenmann, Steering Committee members Cecilia Elizondo and Rachid Serraj, and the drafting team leader Jane Battersby.

The 32nd **meeting of the Steering Committee** of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition was convened from 15 to 17 April 2024 in Istanbul, Türkiye. The meeting delved into crucial updates and challenges of the global food security and nutrition agenda and experts could work on priorities and upcoming reports, working procedures and calendars.

A key aspect of the meeting was the collaboration with the drafting team of the **HLPE-FSN report #19**, "Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation". The Steering Committee members undertook an in-depth discussion of each chapter and recommendations of the upcoming HLPE-FSN Report #19, integrating the peer reviewers' comments. Progress towards finalizing this report is proceeding according to plan.

The report will be launched on 2 July, FAO HQ, Green Room 14:00-16:30. Further information about the agenda and online and in-person participation will be shared closer to the launch date.

The Steering Committee also worked on defining the scope and expertise needed for the HLPE-FSN **Reports #20 and #21**, addressing critical themes of "Building resilient food systems" and "Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems".

The e-consultation on the scope of the report #20, to be presented at the 53rd plenary session of the CFS in October 2025, together with a call for experts for the drafting team, will be launched in mid-May at via the FSN Forum and will stay open one month.

Paola Termine has been nominated HLPE-FSN Coordinator *ad interim*.

7. CFS Chairperson's outreach and global engagements

With the goal of increasing the visibility of the CFS to a broader audience and increasing awareness among constituencies in New York City, the Chairperson delivered video statements to two separate events, which took place in the context of the **68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**: an FAO-organized event on *Investment in gender equality in agrifood systems* on 13 March, and a side event organized by the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development on 15 March.

From 18 to 21 March, the CFS Chair participated in the **FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in Georgetown, Guyana**. During the Regional Conference, the Chairperson delivered a statement on the relevance and activities of the CFS in the region. In addition, several bilateral meetings with high-level representatives of ministries took place, which provided an opportunity for exchange about the opportunities and challenges for CFS engagement with countries in the region.

Between 26 and 27 March, the Chairperson travelled to **Brussels, Belgium**, where she attended the **Working Party on International Food and Agriculture Questions**. At the Working Party meeting she held a presentation on the current priorities of the CFS in the context of the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Programme of Work. In addition, she participated in several bilateral meetings including with the Deputy Director General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Belgian Ministry of Development cooperation.

Between 18 and 20 April the Chair travelled to **Rabat, Morocco for the FAO Regional Conference for Africa**, where in addition to delivering a statement focusing on regional experiences in using the CFS policy products, she contributed to the CFS's outreach at regional level through a number of bilateral meetings with government representatives.

Reflecting the significance of the 20th anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines, the CFS Chairperson delivered two video messages at events focusing on the right to food. On 24 April, the Chair's video statement opened the **XI Regional Meeting of the Right to Food Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean** in Antigua, Guatemala. Another video statement focused on this topic is delivered on 9 May at a side event of the **2024 UN Civil Society Conference** in Nairobi, Kenya.

Another significant engagement of the Chairperson takes place on 10 to 11 May in Rome, Italy, where she speaks at the **World Meeting on Human Fraternity** organized by the **Vatican Foundation Fratelli tutti**. The Chair delivers the opening remarks for the session titled *Be Human and food systems worldwide in the countdown to 2030*.

The **FAO Regional Conference for Europe**, taking place from 14 to 17 May in Rome, Italy, rounds off the Chair's engagements with the FAO regional conferences. The delivery of the Chair's statement as well as bilateral meetings with high-level government representatives are foreseen.

From 22 to 24 May the CFS Chairperson participates in the 2nd in-person meeting of the **G20 Task Force to establish the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty** taking place in **Teresina, Brazil**. The Chair's presence at this meeting further enhances the CFS's engagement with the Task Force and underlines the prominent role of the Committee foreseen within the Alliance.