

**CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and CFS Bureau meeting**

**Date: 27 May 2025**

**Time: 09:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:00**

**Hybrid meeting (King Faisal Room and Zoom Platform)**

**Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes -  
With Bureau Decision**

**Agenda**

1. CFS 53 Planning
  - a) Provisional Timetable
  - b) Guide to CFS53
  - c) CFS 53 Satellite sessions - Scenarios
  - d) Update on the HLF on Financing
  - e) Update on CFS 53 Side Events
2. CFS MYPoW Mid-term Review
3. CFS Resource Mobilization Strategy
4. Strengthening the Uptake of CFS Policy Products- CFS National Focal Points
5. CFS Communications Strategy
6. Renewal of the Steering Committee of the HLPE-FSN (*Bureau meeting only*)
7. Procedures for the election of the CFS Chairperson (*Bureau meeting only*)
8. Workstream and budget updates
9. Any Other Business

The CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, welcomed CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group Members, and outlined the provisional agenda. The agenda was adopted, with a request from the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM) to deliver an opening statement prior to the start of the Bureau and Advisory Group (BAG) meeting.

Participants were informed that the meeting would be recorded, per usual practice, for the Secretariat's note-taking purposes.

CSIPM expressed grave concern over the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza. They highlighted the deliberate use of hunger as a weapon of war, the obstruction of humanitarian aid, and the alarming number of children dying from malnutrition. Emphasizing the legal and moral obligations of states under international human rights law, the CSIPM called on the CFS to uphold its mandate for the progressive realization of the right to food for all by urgently

advocating for the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid, including food, water, and medical assistance.

Moreover, the CSIPM urged the Committee, through its Chair and Bureau Members, to recall the Committee's previous calls in past Plenaries to refrain from the use of food and water as weapons of war, and to reaffirm the principles of the Right to Food and International Humanitarian Law. They emphasized the CFS should speak up – clearly, urgently, and in defense of life and the right to adequate food.

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group members welcomed the intervention, during which WFP recalled that the Global Network Against Food Crises recently launched its report (<https://www.fsinplatform.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/GRFC2025-full.pdf>) outlining the current state of global food insecurity and undernutrition, highlighting that the situation is at its worst to date. IPC classifications are being released for several countries, including Afghanistan, Gaza, Sudan, and Benin, among others, indicating that needs are alarmingly increasing while budgetary resources across the humanitarian sector are declining. Additionally, WFP offered to circulate relevant documents on this issue and to organize a briefing, if considered helpful.

Lastly, it was suggested that the Chair's statement—issued roughly one year ago—calling for solidarity, peace, and food security in the face of conflict, be reemphasized.

## 1. CFS 53 Planning

### a) Provisional Timetable

A slightly revised version of the CFS 53 Provisional Timetable which incorporates the comments made by Bureau and Advisory Group members in March was presented by the CFS Chair. It was clarified that, compared to the original version, the Timetable now includes the full title of session 2.C which is dedicated to the panel discussion on regional perspectives. In addition, Bureau and Advisory Group members were reminded that the timing of the afternoon and evening sessions on Monday are still to be confirmed, depending on the decision to be taken on the two scenarios concerning the satellite sessions.

The idea of a networking coffee on Friday morning was well received. In this regard, Bureau and Advisory Group members suggested to use this as a moment for CFS stakeholders to get together and to share views on the CFS week, keeping it informal with no pre-defined topics for discussion.

### **Bureau discussion**

The Bureau confirmed its preference for the networking coffee and its willingness to set it as a free and informal space for CFS stakeholders to connect and share views. The CFS Secretariat will present a proposal at the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 23 July.

#### **b) Guide to CFS53**

The CFS Chairperson introduced the document, clarifying that the CFS Secretariat updated the CFS 53 Guide to the current version with additional information regarding the format of the session and potential speakers, among other details. She informed the Bureau and Advisory Group that the document will be further updated as new information is acquired and then presented to the next meeting.

Bureau and Advisory Group members welcomed the updates included in the Guide to CFS 53 and provided comments on the presentation of some draft conclusions and decisions, as well as on specific agenda items of the CFS 53 Plenary Session. Regarding the satellite session on ICARRD+20, suggestions were made to strengthen references to the right to adequate food and to marginalized peoples. Concerning the panel on regional perspectives under the SOFI item, it was clarified that regional groups are not expected to present regional perspectives, but rather to identify countries that can share their national experience. The CFS Secretariat informed that suggestions will be taken into consideration and reaffirmed the use of a consistent approach towards the presentation of draft conclusions and decisions for similar agenda items.

### **Bureau discussion**

The CFS Chairperson reiterated the key elements discussed during the morning's discussion and no additional comments occurred under this agenda item.

#### **c) CFS 53 Satellite sessions – Scenarios**

The Secretary presented a background document outlining two possible scenarios for scheduling the Satellite Sessions. In the first scenario, the sessions would be held in parallel in two separate meeting rooms from 13:00 to 14:30, with the Plenary Session reconvening at 15:00, and concluding at 21:00. The approximate cost per session under this arrangement is estimated at USD 18,000.

In the second scenario, the sessions would be held consecutively in the same room, from 12:30 to 14:00 and then from 14:00 to 15:30, with the Plenary Session resuming at 16:00, and concluding at 22:00. The estimated cost per session for this option is approximately USD 7,000.

The Secretary also emphasized that, since the Satellite Sessions take place during the lunch break, they fall outside the regular Plenary budget and therefore require funding from extra-budgetary resources.

Members of the Bureau and Advisory Group underscored the importance of facilitating Members' participation in both sessions, as well as ensuring sufficient time for substantive discussions during the events. Additionally, they stressed the need to keep the schedule of the first day of the Plenary at a reasonable length.

#### **Bureau discussion**

After careful consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of each option, the Bureau expressed a preference for the first scenario, which allows for one-and-a-half-hour Satellite Sessions to promote interactive discussions and ensures the first day of the Plenary concludes by 21.00.

#### **d) Update on the HLF on Financing**

The CFS Chairperson introduced the concept note for the High-Level Forum making reference to the background document prepared on this item, and the Secretariat provided a detailed explanation of the concept note and agenda, including the forthcoming deadline for inputs and workplan of activities. The Bureau and Advisory Group made various suggestions for further shaping the agenda of the High-Level Forum, including an increased emphasis and time allocated for some topics, involving additional stakeholders such as multilateral development banks, regional development banks and additional references to the right to food framework.

The Chair further underlined that members of the Bureau and Advisory Groups will have time until **6 June** to submit comments and suggestions for speakers in writing to [cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org). The Secretariat clarified that, in collaboration with the Technical Task Team (TTT), will update the concept note based on the comments received.

#### **Bureau discussion**

The CFS Chairperson's introduction mirrored the morning's session with no further comments by Members.

#### **e) Update on CFS 53 Side Events**

The CFS Chairperson introduced this agenda item by recalling that the deadline for side events' application closed on 16 May, as agreed by the Bureau in January, and informed members that the proposals are currently under review. The CFS Secretariat then presented a brief summary of the CFS 53 side event application process, noting that 75 proposals were submitted during the 95-day application period, of which 68 were complete. The focal points of each proposal received a copy of the submitted proposals and informed that the outcome of the selection

process will be communicated by 30 June. Members were also informed that the CFS Secretariat will provide an update on the selection outcomes at the next Bureau and Advisory Group meeting.

### **Bureau discussion**

No further discussion occurred under this item.

## **2. CFS MYPoW Mid-term Review**

The Rapporteur for the MYPoW Mid-term review process, Ms Erma Rheindrayani (Indonesia), introduced the background document which incorporates a synthesis of the outcomes of the MYPoW Mid-term review open meeting held on 14 April. She highlighted the following main changes:

- three high level fora on: (i) On Artificial Intelligence, digitalization and data governance for food security and nutrition in 2026; (ii) Advancing equitable land Governance for food security and nutrition: a global progress review on agrarian reform and tenure rights (in 2027); and (iii) Strengthening the impact of CFS Policy Products (in 2027);
- minor tweaks in the Rationale sections of “Building Resilient Food Systems” and “Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems” to reflect Members’ requests for specific policy relevant areas to be addressed in the policy convergence process;
- references to the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty and to the International Year of the Woman Farmer under section B.2. (Linkages with other relevant global processes/institutions);
- an Updated Table 2. “Overview and tentative timeline” and “Rolling section” to align with the above, including an updated budget table with the estimated extra-budgetary costs concerning the new planned activities;

The draft was positively received by members of the Bureau and Advisory Group. Among the comments, there was a suggestion to schedule the High-Level Forum on AI, Digitalization, and Data Governance for Food Security and Nutrition for 2027, while advancing the timing of the High-Level Forum on Advancing Equitable Land Governance for Food Security and Nutrition. It was also proposed that the title of the latter be revised to broaden its focus beyond land governance.

Additional comments were provided regarding the High-Level Fora, including a request to maintain flexibility in determining whether these events should be held during intersessional periods or as part of the Plenary.

The Rapporteur and Chair invited Bureau and Advisory Group members to submit any further comments by the deadline of 16 June.

The final draft of the CFS MYPoW Mid-Term Review—including the Annual Update of the MYPoW Rolling Section and the related Draft Decision for CFS 53—will be discussed at the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting scheduled for 23 July.

### **Bureau discussion**

No further discussion occurred under this item.

### **3. CFS Resource Mobilization Strategy**

As requested during CFS 52, the CFS Secretary presented an updated Resource Mobilization Strategy for the CFS 2024-2027 MYPoW included in document BurAG/2025/05/27/03 which identifies the objective, principles, scope, objective, modalities and expected outcomes to foster mobilization of extra-budgetary contributions required to complete the activities included in the activities of the CFS MYPoW until its completion in 2027.

During the presentation, the CFS Secretary described the current challenging environment for financing for food security and nutrition and the need to strengthening the role and value of the CFS as a global platform contributing to food security and nutrition.

The Resource Mobilization proposal aims to broaden the donor base and reinforce strategic partnerships. In the modalities, it incorporates different options for voluntary contributions from members, including the use of a newly umbrella project that will facilitate the design for ad hoc projects at the CFS and the HLPE-FSN.

The resources mobilization also recognizes the value of the strategic functions of the CFS – policy, platform and uptake – as core activities that should be preserved and identifies the gaps in financing that are necessary for their competition.

Another element of the Resource Mobilization Strategy is to contribute to the well-functioning of the HLPE-FSN and the CFS mechanisms, in order to maintain the multi-stakeholder distinctive characteristic of the Committee and the evidence-based analysis provided by the panel of experts. The Chairperson highlighted that one of the highest costs are interpretation and translation which are necessary to promote inclusion and transparency, in particular during negotiations of the CFS policy products and the Plenary session.

The CFS Secretary mentioned that the CFS Resource Mobilization Strategy is a dynamic exercise, and the Bureau and Advisory Group can be informed on the regular basis about the implementation of this strategy and the expected outcomes.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members welcome the proposal and invited the CFS Secretariat to strengthen their efforts to reach new resource partners, in particular nontraditional donors, international financial institutions, development or regional banks. Others expressed their concerns about the risks of unfunded core CFS activities and invited the CFS Secretariat to

partner with other members, initiatives and UN Agencies to implement jointly activities. One member expressed that before considering reducing the scope or scale up the activities, the CFS should reach different resource partners and plan different and innovative options to carry out the activities included in the MYPoW.

The PSM emphasized the relevance to achieving real and tangible outcomes that can be measured at country level, suggesting identifying 3 or 4 countries where the mechanism can partner to promote the implementation of CFS policy products at country level.

The CSIPM welcomed the proposal to support their efforts with the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) to facilitate the infrastructure required for their meetings and their efforts to provide interpretation in relevant meetings.

#### 4. Strengthening the Uptake of CFS Policy Products- CFS National Focal Points

The CFS Chair presented the background note that was prepared to inform the discussion on the possible identification of CFS focal points at country level which is intended to facilitate a two-way exchange of information and better promote the uptake of CFS policy products.

It was clarified that this recommendation is included in the Action Plan on CFS Uptake and it is based on the findings and recommended actions that were identified in the context of the follow-up to the CFS Independent Evaluation endorsed at CFS 45.

Bureau and Advisory Group members were invited to consider the possibility and the feasibility of creating a digital repository with names and contact details of CFS focal points at country level, as well as to share views on potential roles and responsibilities of CFS national focal points.

The importance of involving in this exercise relevant UN actors at country level, such as Resident Coordinators, was highlighted.

A request was made to postpone the deadline to provide written inputs to allow more time for CFS stakeholders to reflect on the proposal.

#### **Bureau discussion**

The importance of establishing a process towards the identification of CFS national focal points was highlighted, bearing in mind the prerogative of countries to decide whether or not to nominate them.

While the role of RBAs country offices and UN Resident Coordinators was recognized as a key vehicle to promote the disseminate and promote the use of CFS policy products, Bureau members highlighted that CFS national focal points would be identified by member countries.

The deadline for the submission of written inputs has been postponed to **Monday 23 June**.

#### 5. CFS Communications Strategy

The CFS Chairperson introduced the document prepared by the CFS Secretariat, which was presented for discussion and will be shared for information at the next meeting of the Bureau and Advisory Group in July. Some members highlighted the importance of ensuring that the CFS Communication Strategy includes the diversity and the principles of the Committee, especially communicating about those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. Other inputs focused on clarifying the priorities of communication activities to ensure they do not overlap or conflict with implementation efforts.

##### **Bureau discussion**

No further discussion occurred under this item.

#### 6. Renewal of the Steering Committee of the HLPE-FSN (*Bureau meeting only*)

##### **Bureau discussion and decision**

The CFS Chairperson introduced this agenda item by welcoming the proposed list of Steering Committee members and acknowledging the complexity and the high technical quality of the work conducted by the Ad Hoc Technical Selection Committee. The HLPE-FSN Secretariat presented aggregated data about the 79 candidates from across the globe, which included very high-quality applications. The HLPE-FSN secretariat presented the methodology followed to assess individual candidates, along with the criteria applied to ensure a balanced Steering Committee. The list of 15 proposed experts was presented, all of whom are highly qualified, experienced, and internationally recognized scientist. The composition reflects a careful balance of disciplinary expertise, regional representation, age, and gender among several other criteria, as explained by the HLPE-FSN Secretariat.

While the Bureau approved the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Technical Selection Committee, following a Member's request, a one-week period was given to allow Bureau Members to make comments.

#### 7. Procedures for the election of the CFS Chairperson (*Bureau meeting only*)

##### **Bureau discussion**

A note presenting the procedures for the election of the next Chairperson of the Committee was presented. Bureau members were informed of the main procedures concerning the election that are included in the CFS Rules of Procedure which make reference to the length of the mandate and to the procedures for the presentation of nominations.



A list with names, country and regions of previous Chair was also provided, in addition to a description of the role of the CFS Chairperson, as presented in the Implementation Report to the CFS Evaluation.

Bureau members took note that the deadline for the submission of nominations for the CFS Chairmanship to the CFS Secretariat is **Friday 19 September**.

Bureau members are encouraged to share the [information note](#) among their regional groups.

#### 8. Workstream and budget updates

The CFS Chairperson made reference to the background document (Doc No BurAG/2025/05/27/06) prepared on this item, highlighting a few notable aspects. In particular, she informed about her engagement in the preparations of the UNFSS+4 Stocktake as a member of its Advisory Group, focusing specifically on the task of mainstreaming the science/policy interface in the process and leading the organization of a science session during the Summit to be held in Ethiopia in July.

Moreover, the CFS Chairperson provided a few updates in relation to HLPE-FSN Steering Committee held in April in Morocco, and the HLPE-FSN Report on building Resilient Food Systems. In this context, a clarification was requested regarding the peer review process applied to the upcoming HLPE-FSN report. The HLPE-FSN Secretariat recalled that the preparation of the HLPE reports include two public consultations. The HLPE-FSN reports peer review mechanism is the same as for other academic publications but involves a higher number of reviewers compared to similar scientific processes, with careful attention only to academic seniority but also diversity: in selecting peer reviewers, the Secretariat ensures balance across gender, geography, and disciplinary background, thereby upholding the independence, quality, and credibility of the review.

#### **Bureau discussion**

The CFS Chairperson's introduction mirrored the morning's session with no further comments by Members.

#### 9. Any Other Business

No further discussion occurred under this item.

## Annex 1: Attendance list Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

**CFS Bureau Members:** Ambassador Nosipho Jezile (Chair), Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand), Mr Hanghao Li (China), Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (India), Mr Massimo Ziad Ammar (Kuwait), Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran (Nigeria), Ms Catalina Constantin (Romania), Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland)

**CFS Bureau Alternates:** Ms Maria Antonella Parodi (Argentina), Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil), Ms Erma Rheindrayani (Indonesia), Ms Pathumwadee Imtour, Ms Saranya Norkaew, Ms Federica Veschi (Thailand), Mr Eiman Ahmed (Sudan)

**Observers:** Ms Josyline Javelosa (Philippines)

**Advisory Group:** Mr James Stapleton (CGIAR), Ms Dubravka Bojic, (FAO); Ms Elena Bertusi (IFAD); Ms Ludovica Donati (PFM); Ms Paola De Meo (Special Rapporteur Right to Food); Ms Giulia Simula, Ms Magdalena Ackermann (CSIPM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM)

**CFS Secretariat:** Ms Adriana Herrera Moreno (CFS Secretary), Ms Carolin Busch, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Carlotta Cramer, Ms Valentina Delle Fratte, Mr Lorenz Franken, Mr Kenndy Kariuki, Mr Marco Marzano de Marinis, Mr Riccardo Mazzucchelli, Ms Silvia Meiattini, Mr Alexandre Meybeck, Ms Tatiana Moruz, , Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Fatiha Terki, Ms Paola Termine, Ms Eleonora Viotti

## Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

**CFS Bureau Members:** Ambassador Nosipho Jezile (Chair); Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand), Mr Emile Butoyi (Burundi), Mr Hanghao Li (China), Ms Moira Vargas, (Dominican Republic), Mr Michel Leveque (France), Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (India), Mr Massimo Ziad Ammar (Kuwait), Ms Catalina Constantin (Romania), Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland)

**CFS Bureau Alternates:** Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil), Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada), Ms Erma Rheindayani (Indonesia), Ms Pathumwadee Imtour, Ms Saranya Norkaew, Ms Federica Veschi (Thailand), Mr Eiman Ahmed (Sudan)

**Observers:** Ms Josyline Javelosa (Philippines)

**CFS Secretariat:** Ms Adriana Herrera Moreno (CFS Secretary), Ms Carolin Busch, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Carlotta Cramer, Ms Valentina Delle Fratte, Mr Lorenz Franken, Mr Kennedy Kariuki, Mr Marco Marzano de Marinis, Mr Riccardo Mazzucchelli, Ms Silvia Meiattini, Mr Alexandre Meybeck, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Fatiha Terki, Ms Paola Termine, Ms Eleonora Viotti