



Workstreams and Activities Updates

*****These updates cover the period since the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings held on 25 January*****

1. Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition

The first Open Ended Working Group Meeting on Reducing Inequalities for food security and nutrition was held on 23 January. The inputs from this meeting, along with the written comments received from CFS stakeholders on the priority issues to be addressed during the CFS policy convergence process, will inform the development of the Zero Draft, which is scheduled to be circulated by 11 March 2024.

The Thematic Discussion involving OEWG and HLPE-FSN Project Team members was held on 29 January to analyze specific concepts/policy areas of the HLPE-FSN Report on Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition. The recording of the discussion 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

A draft Outline of the Action Plan was prepared on the basis of written contributions submitted by OEWG members and inputs provided during the first Open Meeting of the workstream. The Outline was circulated to the members of the OEWG on February 2.

The next OEWG of the workstream to discuss the draft Outline of the Action Plan will be held on March 7.

Members of the OEWG are invited to submit their written contributions to the draft Outline also by March 7 to cfs@fao.org. Contributions should: a) focus on the proposed structure of the document; b) suggest additional areas for action that may have been omitted from the Outline; and c) suggest how the existing areas for action could be further expanded or elaborated in future versions of the document. These inputs, together with the outcomes of the OEWG meeting scheduled for March 7, will inform the preparation of the First Draft of the Action Plan, which will be released in mid-April, as foreseen in the agreed workplan.

CFS stakeholders are kindly invited to share the request for written inputs and 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. High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (CFS HLPE-FSN)

The online consultation “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation – V0 draft of the HLPE-FSN report #19” was held via the FAO Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition platform, from 6 December 2023 to 26 January 2024. 75 insightful contributions were received from diverse public and private organizations working in different fields of expertise, academia, civil society, and other institutions with participants from the following 33 countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Congo, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, UK, and USA.

The HLPE-FSN Steering Committee met virtually on Wednesday, 31 January, to work on the V0 draft of report #19, analyze the consultation's comments, and discuss different updates, events, communications materials, and projects' calendars.

The HLPE-FSN drafting team has been meeting virtually every week and met in person to revise the V0 draft of report #19 taking into consideration the consultation and the Steering Committee's comments, at ILRI campus, in Nairobi, Kenya, from 6 February to 8 February 2024.

The Consultation on the scope of the HLPE-FSN report on “Building resilient food systems” and the call for experts will be launched by mid-March.

The launch of HLPE-FSN report #19 was established as 2 July 2024 in the Green room from 14:00 to 16:30 (the OEWG session will resume at 17:00).

4. CFS contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2024

In line with the [workplan](#), the Zero Draft of the CFS contribution to the HLPF 2024 has been circulated on 15 February to Bureau and Advisory Group members for comments. The inputs received have been consolidated into a Final Draft which has been circulated to Bureau (and Alternate) Members for non-objection in order to be submitted to the HLPF by the deadline, 1 March 2024.

5. CFS Chairperson's outreach and global engagements

The CFS Chairperson traveled to New York City from 25-26 January to meet with several key CFS stakeholders. The mission included meetings with **UN Deputy Secretary-General**, Amina Mohammed, the **President of ECOSOC**, Paula Narváez, **UN Women Deputy Executive Director**, Kirsi Madi, and **UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**, Michael Fakhri, to discuss the ongoing work of the CFS as outlined in the MYPoW, as well as opportunities for further collaboration with the respective UN entities. The CFS Chair also met with the Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN in his capacity as Chair of the Group of Friends on Food Security and Nutrition in New York. In addition, the Chairperson took the opportunity to meet with the offices of the RBAs in New York, as well as with the Chief of the Global Network against Food Crises, hosted by WFP. The trip to New York, with its various high-level

meetings, provided an opportunity to reach out to the New York-based UN agencies and to increase the visibility of CFS among these constituencies, as well as to identify and plan specific actions for further CFS engagement with other UN initiatives.

On February 13, the CFS Chair participated in the **World Farmers' Forum**, a dialogue and coordination process between IFAD and various associations of smallholder farmers, artisanal fishers and pastoralists that takes place every four years and in different regions. The Chairperson participated in a thematic session on "*Expanding smallholders' access to finance to invest in more sustainable food production and access market*" during which she made a contribution highlighting the need for innovative solutions to improve smallholders' access to finance and the potential guidance that CFS policy agreements could provide in this context.

The following day, on February 14, the CFS Chair participated virtually in a **workshop entitled "The path to gender equality in the context of food security"**, jointly organized by the Swedish Ministry of Rural Affairs, FAO, Sida, and SIANI, during which she delivered closing remarks focusing on the potential role of the CFS Gender Guidelines in advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.

On February 15, the CFS Chairperson attended the **meeting of the Friends of the Right to Food**, where she gave a detailed input on the CFS MYPoW 2024-2027, as well as on the current priorities of CFS and planned outreach activities, with a particular focus on advocating for the realization of the right to food in the context of the 20th anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines in 2024.

From February 19 to 22, the CFS Chair participates in the **FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka**. During the Regional Conference, the Chairperson will deliver a statement on the relevance and activities of the CFS in the region. In addition, her participation in one of the Ministerial Roundtables is planned, as well as several bilateral meetings with high-level representatives of ministries in the region, which will increase the visibility of the CFS and may contribute to the uptake of CFS policy agreements at the regional level.

On February 28, the CFS Chair will participate in the **Civil Society Consultation Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America**, where she will deliver opening remarks. This event will enhance the engagement of the CFS with civil society representatives, as well as its outreach to regional food security and nutrition stakeholders.

On the same day, February 28, the CFS Chairperson has been invited to contribute to a **side event organized by FAO at the session of the UN Statistical Commission on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition Statistics: Towards a new domain under the Statistical Commission**. A video statement by the Chair will be delivered at this event, highlighting the key role of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Data for the potential establishment of a new statistical domain on food security and nutrition.

From March 4 to 5, the CFS Chairperson will attend the **FAO Regional Conference for the Near East**, where she will deliver a statement. In addition, several bilateral meetings with high-level representatives are scheduled to facilitate outreach in the region and to promote the uptake of CFS policy agreements at the country level in the Near East.