

176th Session of the FAO Council

**Item 18: Report of the 52nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
(Rome, 21-25 October 2024)**

Draft CFS Chair's introduction to FAO Council

I have the pleasure to introduce to you the Report of the 52nd Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that was held in hybrid modality from 21 to 25 October 2024.

Its final Report was adopted through consensus, which is available on the CFS website, and is submitted to the Council for endorsement as contained in document C 2025/20.

The Session was attended by 121 Members and 6 non-Members of the Committee. Participants included one Vice Prime Minister, 12 Ministers, 6 Vice-Ministers and 3 State Secretaries, as well as delegates from the United Nations (UN) system, financial institutions, civil society, research organizations, private sector associations and philanthropic foundations.

I would like to draw the Council's attention to the following points:

1. The Committee took three key decisions on endorsing the following:
 - a) The Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition resulting from the work of the intersessional period, which will be transmitted to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD, with a request to support their use at country level.
 - b) The Action Plan to Strengthen the Uptake of CFS Policy Products as an important instrument that presents a variety of actions that CFS stakeholders should take to strengthen the usefulness, ownership, awareness and use of CFS policy products.
 - c) The update of the Rolling Section of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 and called on FAO, IFAD and WFP to honour their verbal agreement to share equally the costs of the CFS Secretariat budget, through either cash or in-kind contributions.
2. Discussions during CFS 52 illustrated the deep concern about the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition in different regions of the world and the immense challenges that remain in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger by 2030, and as also emphasized by the UN Secretary-General in his statement to the 52nd Session wherein he highlighted that the "gravest signs of this crisis is our failure to deliver healthy, affordable diets for all".

3. Discussions also centred on the need to refrain from using food and water as weapons of war in conflict areas, obligations under International Humanitarian Law and on the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA).
4. The Committee called for broad participation of all stakeholders in the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty in close collaboration with CFS, invited stakeholders to engage in the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit and welcomed the proposal to hold a Second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD+20) in 2026.
5. The Committee also received the 19th Report of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN), entitled “Strengthening Urban and Peri-urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition in the context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation”, as a basis for the preparation of an agreed set of policy recommendations to be proposed for endorsement at CFS 53 in October 2025.
6. The Chair’s report on “Collaborative Governance for Coordinated Policy Responses” and the call for broad engagement in this workstream was presented.
7. Furthermore, the agenda allowed for an in-depth exchange among CFS stakeholders on:
 - a) experiences in the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security; and
 - b) the importance of integrating and adapting the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition into national legislation, strategies, policies, programmes, action plans and frameworks.
8. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all delegations for their constructive engagement, in a spirit of cooperation and compromise, that contributed to the finalisation of the work of the 52nd Session by consensus.

H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security