



Workstreams and Activities Updates

*****These updates cover the period since the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings held on 29 July*****

1. Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems

Following the nomination of Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (Alternate Permanent Representative of India to FAO, IFAD, and WFP) as Rapporteur, the CFS 52 Plenary discussion on the HLPE-FSN Report, “Strengthening Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation,” officially kicked off the CFS policy convergence process on this matter. The objectives of this session were to provide the CFS Plenary with an opportunity to discuss the relevant policy findings of the HLPE-FSN report and to give guidance on issues to be addressed in the development of CFS Policy Recommendations on this topic. To this end complement, an email has been circulated by the CFS Secretariat inviting CFS stakeholders are invited to send written inputs to CFS@fao.org, highlighting their views on priority policy issues to be addressed during the CFS policy convergence process and, specifically for this first step, what elements should to be included in the Zero Draft. The deadline is 28 November 2024.

The CFS working space will have a dedicated areas where all the relevant information for this workstream can be accessible, including the workplan. Moreover, those interested in following the process and sending inputs can “sign up for the mailing list” to stay up to date.

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

Following the endorsement at CFS 52 of the [Action Plan to Strengthen the uptake of CFS policy products](#), a follow-up plan will be presented by the CFS Secretariat at the next Bureau and Advisory Group meeting taking place in January 2025. This will include ideas on how to advance with the implementation of the different recommendations included in the Action Plan, with particular attention to recommendations 3.2 and 3.3 which are specifically addressed to the Bureau and Advisory Group.

With reference to the implementation of the Action Plan, and more specifically to recommendations 2.A.8 and 2.C.2, a “webinar with UN Resident Coordinators on CFS policy products guiding national policy integration for food systems transformation” has been organized and scheduled for 5 November to introduce UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to CFS and its policy frameworks as well

as to illustrate how these global policy tools can guide the development of national policies and strategies.

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

The second meeting within the Collaborative Governance workstream took place on 5 September. It featured two expert presentations – by Ms Jennifer Clapp, Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security and Sustainability and Professor in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo; and by Daniel Maxwell, Henry J. Leir Professor in Food Security at the Friedman School of Nutrition, and Research Director at the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University. The presenters highlighted key lessons learned from previous food crises, the evolution of the global governance architecture on food security and nutrition and some important factors for successful governance and policy responses to food crises. The presentations were followed by an engaging and interactive discussion. Among others, various topics for further discussion in future meetings were proposed.

The CFS Chairperson compiled the main outcomes of the two meetings, including the list of topics and suggested criteria for prioritization of the topics, in her summary report, which was presented to the 52nd session of the CFS. The report served as a background document to the discussions in the session on “Strengthening Coordinated Policy Responses to the Food Crisis – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024”.

4. Global Thematic Event on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted crises (FFA)

In line with the 2024–2027 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW), the Secretariat is initiating preparations for the Global Thematic Event (GTE), which is scheduled to take place during the October 2025 Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) within the Collaborative Governance for Coordinated Policy workstream. The objective of this GTE is to share experiences and best practices in the use and application of the CFS [Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises \(CFS-FFA\)](#), and to advance its implementation. As per past practices, a call for inputs will be issued through the [Global Food Security and Nutrition Forum](#). Further information will be available on the CFS website soon.

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

The HLPE-FSN Steering Committee finalized the selection of the Drafting team for the HLPE-FSN report #20 “Building resilient food systems”, in close collaboration with the team leader, Alison Blay-Palmer, UNESCO Chair on Food, Biodiversity and Sustainability Studies. The composition will be announced by the end of October. The composition of the report's drafting team ensures diversity of required scientific competencies, as well as the best possible age, gender and geographical representation balance. The competencies of the team will be complemented by those available within the HLPE-FSN Steering Committee. The drafting team will meet in-person in Rome on 18-20 November 2024.

The HLPE-FSN consultation on the scope of the report #21 “Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems”

has been launched on 13 September 2024. It will be open until 13 December 2024 and it has received 22 contributions by the end of October.

The HLPE-FSN launched the call for experts to draft report #21 on 16 September 2024. The deadline is 16 December 2024. A total of 115 applications have been received as of end October.

The Steering Committee of the HLPE-FSN convened in Rome from 28 to 30 October 2024 to advance on the implementation of the HLPE-FSN workplan as defined by the MYPOW, meet with CFS, FAO, IFAD, CSIPM and PSM representatives, and strategically plan participation in initiatives linked to the MYPOW. Committee experts also engaged in the public event titled “The right to adequate food in urban and peri-urban areas: achievements, challenges and way forward”, co-organized with the FAO Right to Food Team. During the World Food Forum, a representative of the HLPE-FSN Steering Committee and the Coordinator a.i. met with the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems about the forthcoming HLPE-FSN report on Indigenous Peoples.

6. CFS Chairperson's outreach and global engagements

On 4 September, the CFS Chairperson participated in the virtual **Thought Leaders Meeting**, which is the follow-up format for the G7-initiative Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS), and in which comprises a curated group of partners, established as an informal, and agile body that allows food security and nutrition experts and policymakers to share their knowledge, develop joint strategies and engage in open and candid dialogue.

For the **Africa Food Systems (AFS) Forum Summit 2024**, which took place in Kigali, Rwanda from 2 to 6 September 2024, the CFS Chair contributed a video message for a panel discussion focused on “Innovative Financing to Accelerate Food Systems Transformation: Best Business Models and Philanthropic Public-Private-Partnerships”.

On 10 September the Chair participated in the regular **Group of the Friends of the Right to Food** meeting in Rome, where she informed members of the group about recent CFS activities as well as the activities related to the right to food planned for the CFS plenary, in particular the Global Thematic Event on the Right to Food.

The Chairperson travelled to Vienna, Austria on 17 September to participate in a **side event to the International Atomic Energy Agency 68th General Conference** titled "Atoms4Food & Gender Mainstreaming". Speaking about gender mainstreaming in the context of food security and nutrition at this event in the context of the Atoms4Food initiative provided a valuable opportunity for the Chairperson to raise awareness among Vienna-based constituencies.

On 25 September, the Chair provided a video keynote address for a **High-Level Event on Social Business, Youth and Technology**, which took place in the context of the 79th United Nations General Assembly, taking this opportunity to highlight the relevance of the Policy Recommendations on Youth Engagement in agriculture.

From 25 to 27 September, the CFS Chair attended the **G7 Agriculture Forum for Africa** in Syracuse, Italy, continuing her outreach activities with Member States and contributing to an increased awareness of the CFS as a platform for food security and nutrition.

The Chairperson was invited to the **5th World Summit of Regions on Food Security and Sovereignty**, which took place from 2 to 4 October in Barcelona, Spain. Unable to attend in person, she sent a video message for the opening of the Summit, which underscored the importance of regional governments in achieving food security and reducing malnutrition.

From 8 to 9 October, the Chairperson attended the **Hamburg Sustainability Conference**, in Hamburg, Germany, where she participated in a high-level panel discussion on Resilient Food Systems. Furthermore, she participated in a side event focused on “Buffer Stocks for Food Security and Against Market Price Volatility”.

The World Food Forum (WFF) Week at FAO Headquarters in Rome presented another important opportunity for the CFS Chairperson to engage in outreach and awareness raising activities. She spoke during the opening ceremony of the **Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems** on 14 October, underscoring the crucial role of Indigenous Peoples in the CFS. Furthermore, the Vice-Chair participated in Global-Hub’s event focused on “Exchanges of knowledge” on 17 October. On 15 October, the CFS Secretary spoke at the **WFF Youth Assembly**, which dedicated a segment to the CFS and its policy products. Another important event during this week was the **UN Decade on Family Farming Mid Term Forum** on 16 October. The Chairperson participated as a panelist in a session focused on mechanisms for the uptake of global policy instruments.

On 20 October, the Chair attended the **CSIPM Forum Public Panel**, where she spoke about the Right to Food with a particular focus on protracted crises.

During the **CFS Plenary**, the Chairperson also engaged in additional outreach activities. She participated as a speaker in the following **three side events**: “Strengthening women’s agency in agriculture and food systems through the effective uptake of CFS policy products”, “Catalyzing Parliamentary Action through CFS Policy Products and the Global Parliamentary Pact for Food System Transformation”, and “Building Bridges – Strengthening Partnership to Deliver Global Food Security”. Furthermore, she attended the **Private Sector Mechanism’s annual High-Level Dinner**, where she delivered a keynote address.

The Chairperson has also reconfirmed her commitment to regularly engage with the FAO **Regional Groups** and has attended several meetings of different Regional Groups informing their members about the CFS’s activities and about opportunities for engagement during the CFS plenary.

On 5 November, the CFS Chairperson participated in an important outreach activity aimed at enhancing the uptake of CFS policy products – a **webinar for UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams** focused specifically on the CFS and its policy products. The Chairperson provided a keynote presentation, in which she explained the CFS to the audience and highlighted the value added of its policy products.