

CFS 53 SIDE EVENTS

1. Introduction

All recent CFS sessions have hosted side events, which are usually highly attended and provide a greater sense of ownership and engagement among all stakeholders. These side events offer a platform for stakeholders to showcase their work, share experiences, and discuss innovative solutions related to food security and nutrition. The 53rd session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) will continue this good practice, with a renewed effort to align the proposed side events with the plenary sessions. Building on past experiences and feedback, the CFS Secretariat aims to plan the call for side events well in advance of the October session. This approach will provide additional time for organizers to make necessary arrangements, ensuring the best settings for hosting speakers and designing even more interactive side events.

2. Selection process

a. Call for CFS Side Events: 17 February – 18 April

b. Thematic focus: CFS side event proposals must take into consideration the current topics on the CFS 53 agenda and the MYPoW 2024-2027, with the purpose of contributing to the ongoing discussions, sharing relevant knowledge and experiences.

Side events may feature the launch of major studies or reports related to the CFS mandate and vision or contribute to the ongoing efforts aimed at coordinating global policy responses to the food crisis while advancing long-term food system transformation.

Priority topics include those workstreams on which the CFS and its Bureau and Advisory Group focus their work during intersessional periods, namely, but not limited to:

- uptake of CFS policy products
- strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems
- collaborative governance
- the right to food or the dialogue on the nexus of science-policy interfaces
- responsible financing and investments in food security and nutrition

c. Criteria and conditions for selection: The criteria for shortlisting and selecting CFS 53 side events are as follows:

- Consistency with the vision and mandate of the CFS, aligning with the main topics and issues in the CFS 53 Plenary Agenda, in the current Multi-Year Program of Work (MYPoW) or in previous policy products relevant to the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.
- Reflecting the CFS multi-stakeholder model, including a variety of constituencies, and considering issues such as gender parity among speakers, diverse geographic representation and youth presence.

- Maximizing interactivity, with at least 30%-50% of the total time allocated for audience interaction. A maximum of four speakers, including co-chairs, is recommended.
- Applications should be kept concise and avoid redundancy.
- If multiple side event applications are received on similar or complementary topics, organizers may be invited to merge their proposals. While merging is optional, it may increase the likelihood of selection.
- While interpretation in the official languages of the UN system is not mandatory and involves a fixed cost to be charged by FAO and borne by the side event organizers, its use may have a positive impact on the final selection of applications.
- Organizers are responsible for promoting their side event, although a basic communications package and support for dissemination through CFS channels will be provided.
- Organizers are encouraged to arrange for catering services, as previous years have shown that offering a small snack or coffee increases participation.
- Organizers must submit a 500-word summary of their side event outcomes and key observations within one month of CFS 53, for posting on the CFS 53 Side Event website.

3. Timetable

CFS 53 side events will take place during two main time slots:

- Morning, from 08:30 to 09:45; and
- Afternoon, from 13:30 to 14:45.

Considering CFS 53 tentative agenda, the number of CFS 53 Side events shall be assessed against the submitted applications and considerations related to ensuring adequate attendance to all side events in the most equitable manner.