

Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation – Concept Note for meetings in 2025

BACKGROUND

According to the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work 2024-2027 and in line with the CFS' platform function, the CFS workstream on “Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation” foresees regular biannual meetings to discuss the evolving food and nutrition security situation, share experiences, data and information on existing initiatives, as well as to exchange on key issues towards enhanced policy coordination and collaborative governance, giving particular attention to the voices of the most affected countries and constituencies. These meetings are organized by the CFS Secretariat, supported by a Technical Task Team (TTT). The outcomes of the biannual meetings are captured in a chair summary report that is presented at CFS Plenary under agenda item “State of food security in the world”.

Two meetings took place in 2024, and provided the opportunity to discuss a list of potential topics for further discussion under this workstream in the upcoming years. At its meeting on 8 November, the CFS Bureau approved the following set of criteria, based on which these topics should be prioritized:

- The extent to which the topics address the basic and structural causes of food insecurity and malnutrition in food systems and related systems,
- The potential for linking the CFS to other relevant international and UN institutions, fora and initiatives, including the timing and location of other events; including the alignment with the activities under the MYPoW linked to potential synergies with the high level fora foreseen under the MYPoW on climate, biodiversity, land degradation in the context of the right to food and on strengthening responsible investment and financing for FSN; and
- The extent to which the topics are relevant for the most affected countries and constituencies.

Based on these criteria and as tasked by the Bureau, the TTT suggested two topics under “Collaborative Governance Dialogues” for 2025.

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE – FINANCING FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The first meeting will focus on issues of financing for food security and nutrition with a particular focus on debt management. Lack of financial resources is among the key drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition. Specifically, a high level of public debt can present a barrier for countries to invest in social safety nets for the most vulnerable or support to the agricultural sector. As such, the topic is highly relevant for the countries and constituencies most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition – these countries are often carrying a high public debt burden. Furthermore, the topic aligns with various

international initiatives taking place in 2025 such as the Nutrition for Growth Summit and the 4th UN Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). It further creates synergies with the CFS workstream on responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition. It is expected that the outcomes of this Collaborative Governance Dialogue will feed into the workstream on investment and financing in a complementary way.

In preparation for the meeting, the TTT will propose speakers from different CFS stakeholder groups to share their views and experiences with a focus on country experiences and case studies. The speakers will outline the current challenges regarding financing and debt in the context of food security and nutrition (e.g. high public debt burden, lack of access to financing for farmers, etc.) as well as presenting innovative financing solutions (e.g. debt for food swaps, financing instruments for smallholder farmers, etc.). Based on the presentations, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the potential role of the CFS in fostering collaboration between various actors within the thematic space and in coordinating policy responses based on best practice.

The meeting is expected to take place **at the end of March/in early April 2025** (date to be confirmed). It is expected that meeting outcomes/summary will feed into the CFS workstream's meeting on responsible investment and financing to take place in May 2025. These meetings will create better visibility for food security and nutrition as an important area for enhanced financing efforts and will also inform the FfD4 in Sevilla in June 2025.

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE – FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

The second meeting will focus on food security and nutrition in protracted crises. Conflicts and crises, especially protracted crises, are one of the most significant drivers of acute food insecurity and malnutrition. In turn, many of the countries most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition are also affected by crises and conflicts. Furthermore, vulnerable groups such as women, children, minority groups or refugees are often most severely affected by the impacts of crises and conflicts. Given the large number of protracted crises globally, the topic is regularly on the agenda of the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, the UN Human Rights Committee and various other international fora. As such, the meeting could create linkages with several on-going processes.

The TTT will propose a number of speakers to outline the current situation regarding food security and nutrition situation in protracted crises, giving particular space to country experiences and that are stakeholders most affected by crisis situations. Selected expert presentations can provide background information for the meeting participants and inform discussions. Based on the presentations, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the potential role of the CFS in fostering collaboration between various actors within the thematic space and in coordinating policy responses based on best practice.

Pending the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the meeting could take place in New York City, giving greater visibility to the CFS’s work at this important UN location with specific relevance for the topic of protracted crises. As such, the meeting could take place either in **July 2025**, linking it to the High Level Political Forum (e.g. as a side event of the HLPF), or in **September 2025**, linking it to the UN General Assembly.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The CFS Secretariat will prepare a communication plan for the Collaborative Governance Dialogues focused on highlighting the interlinkages between the CFS and the thematically relevant international fora outlined above. This communication plan will aim at fostering engagement, ownership and visibility among diverse stakeholder groups, leading to new, renewed and lasting relationships with the CFS as the foremost inclusive platform for food security and nutrition.

WORKPLAN

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
The <u>2025 Workplan</u> for the biannual meetings under the Collaborative Governance workstream, approved by the CFS Bureau, in consultation with its Advisory Group	28 January 2025
<u>Update and discussion</u> at Bureau and Advisory Group meeting to present the agenda and speakers for the first Collaborative Governance Dialogue on Financing for food security and nutrition	18 March 2025
<u>Collaborative Governance Dialogue on Financing for food security and nutrition</u> to take place in Rome	End of March/ early April 2025 (tbc)
<u>Update and discussion</u> at Bureau and Advisory Group meeting to present the agenda and speakers for the second Collaborative Governance Dialogue on Food security and nutrition in protracted crises	May 2025
<u>Collaborative Governance Dialogue on Food security and nutrition in protracted crises</u> to take place in New York or other location	July 2025/ September 2025
Presentation of the Chair’s summary report on Collaborative Governance at CFS 53 during the session on Item II	October 2025