

High Level Forum on strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition

1. Background and Objective

The 2018 HLPE-FSN Report on “Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda” indicated: a) increasing financing needs for sustainable development at the global level; and, b) an investment gap of USD 260 billion in food security and agriculture sector. These challenges affect and/or limit the development of efficient food systems. The need for an enabling framework for food systems was also highlighted by the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action on Finance for Development.

To cope with these challenges, the CFS Multi-year Programme of Work (MyPoW) 2024-2027 includes a workstream in 2025, which *“will discuss cost estimates to properly finance sustainable and inclusive food systems that are not just capable of ending hunger and malnutrition, but simultaneously eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities in all their dimensions, and deliver on climate, biodiversity, soils and the rest of the SDGs. It will reflect on the status and evolution of financing in agriculture and food systems on a regular basis, informed by the work carried out by the UN System and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) among other stakeholders. It will include deliberations on how standards and principles, such as the CFS-RAI, can be used to further mobilize responsible investments and will advance the debate on topics such as blended finance, de-risking, moving beyond Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and tracking its flows.”* (MYPoW A.1.3)

To achieve these objectives, the workstream foresees the organization of a High-Level Forum on Strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition at CFS 53 as well as engagement with the 2025 Addis Ababa +10 International Conference on Financing for Development.

2. Expected outcomes and agenda

The workstream will benefit from the convening power of the CFS platform function, bringing together relevant stakeholders involved in promoting responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition. The objective is to facilitate a dialogue to discuss the current state of investment and financing for food security and nutrition, including cost estimates, as well as identifying potential solutions for increasing the amount of investments and financing aimed at increasing food security and nutrition.

A Preparatory Dialogue on Financing and Responsible Investment will bring together technical expertise from various CFS constituencies and other stakeholders, including but not limited to multilateral

development banks, regional development banks, civil society, the private sector and Member States representatives. The Dialogue will be informed by a short HLPE-FSN background note as a basis for discussions. In addition, expert presentations and input from key speakers may be included in the agenda. The outcomes of the discussions in the dialogue session will be captured in a Summary Report. The Summary Report may inform the CFS's engagement with the 4th Financing for Development Conference to be held in Sevilla, Spain between 30 June and 3 July 2025. In addition, the Summary Report will be submitted to the 53rd Session of the CFS Plenary in October as a background document for the High-Level Forum.

The High-Level Forum on strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition will draw on the outcomes of the Preparatory Dialogue as captured in the Summary Report and presented at the High-Level Forum. The Forum will further invite high-level representatives of Member States and key CFS stakeholder groups. Discussions will focus on the proposed solutions for increasing investment and financing for food security and nutrition as identified in the Preparatory Dialogue. Furthermore, the session can provide an opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to present and raise awareness about good practice examples. As such, the High-Level Forum will increase awareness and visibility for the importance of innovative solutions to increase investment and financing for food security and nutrition in alignment with the CFS's mandate.

3. Dates and Preliminary Programme of Work

In 2025, two main CFS events are planned under this workstream:

- **Preparatory Dialogue on Financing and Responsible Investment** (May 2025). This will be a Mid-term event aimed at preparing technical inputs for the High-Level Forum on strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition at CFS 53 in October 2025.
- **High Level Forum on strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition** (CFS 53, October 2025)

Workplan

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
The 2025 Concept Note and Workplan for the workstream, approved by the CFS Bureau, in consultation with its Advisory Group	28 January 2025
Update and discussion at Bureau and Advisory Group meeting to present the agenda and speakers for the Preparatory Dialogue on Financing and Responsible Investment	18 March 2025

<u>Preparatory Dialogue on Financing and Responsible Investment</u> to take place in Rome	May 2025
<u>Engagement of the CFS Chairperson during the 4th Financing for Development Conference (FfD4) in Sevilla, Spain and organization of a side event</u> (subject to availability of resources and organizers approval)	30 June – 3 July 2025
<u>Update and discussion</u> at Bureau and Advisory Group meeting to present the agenda and speakers for the High-Level Forum at CFS 53	July 2025
<u>High-Level Forum on strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition</u> to take place at CFS 53 in Rome	October 2025

The activities under the workstream will be supported by a Technical Task Team (TTT), which will include representatives with technical expertise in the fields of financing and investment for food security and nutrition from the relevant CFS stakeholder groups. The TTT is expected to be set up in January 2025.

3. Communications Plan

The CFS Secretariat will prepare a communication plan for the workstream 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.