

Workstreams and Activities Updates

*****These updates cover the period since the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings held on 08 November*****

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, an email was circulated by the CFS Secretariat inviting CFS stakeholders 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 was 11 December 2024.

The CFS working space includes a [dedicated area](#) 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 to the mailing list](#) to stay up to date.

As foreseen in the CFS 2024 -2027 Multi Year Programme of Work (MYPoW), a Thematic Discussion on “Localizing SDG 2: multi-level governance” was held on 9 December, preceding the start of the Open-ended Working Group meetings with a view to inform the preparation of the Zero Draft CFS Policy Recommendations on “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security in the context of urbanization and rural transformation”.

The thematic discussion focused on building a shared understanding among CFS stakeholders of the importance of inclusive and equitable multi-level governance approaches and their relevance in enhancing policy coherence and effective resource use to achieve food security and nutrition.

On 13 December, the first Open-Ended Working Group under this workstream took place and provided an opportunity for CFS stakeholders to discuss an outline for the Zero Draft of the Policy Recommendations and to give their inputs for topics to be included in the Zero Draft.

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

CFS Bureau discussed the Collaborative Governance workstream during its meeting on 8 November 2024 and invited the Technical Task Team (TTT) to explore a concrete proposal for topics for the agendas of the two meetings in 2025 based on the endorsed criteria for prioritization.

The CFS Secretariat convened a meeting of the TTT on 28 November 2024 to discuss the selection of two topics for the biannual meetings of the Collaborative Governance in 2025.

The TTT members agreed that the first meeting could focus on financing, with particular emphasis on debt management, and could take place during the first half of the year in Rome before the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development taking place in Sevilla between 30 June and 03 July 2025. The second meeting could address protracted crises and take place in New York City before CFS53 at a time still to be defined depending on further information on potential synergies with the New York-based fora of the UN as well as availability of resources.

Members of the Bureau approved this proposal through a silence procedure until 10 December.

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

Preparations for the Global Thematic Event (GTE) on the FFA are ongoing in line with the provisions in the 2024–2027 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). The call for inputs was issued through the [Global Food Security and Nutrition Forum](#) on 13 December and will remain open until 15 April 2025. CFS stakeholders are encouraged to share their experiences and best practices in the use and application of the CFS [Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises \(CFS-FFA\)](#) through the call. A call for nominations for participation in the technical Task Team has been issued.

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

The selection of the Drafting team for the HLPE-FSN report #20 “Building resilient food systems” has been announced on the HLPE-FSN website. The team includes: Alison Blay-Palmer (team leader); Colin Anderson; Philip Antwi-Agyei; Garima Bhalla; Lídia Cabral; Francisco Javier Espinosa Garcia; Tomaso Ferrando; Isabel Madzorera; Tammara Soma; and Monika Zurek.

The selection ensures diversity of required scientific competencies and the best possible age and gender diversity. The team's competencies will be complemented by those available within the HLPE-FSN Steering Committee and Secretariat. The drafting team met in person in Rome in November and is now finalizing the V0 draft of the report, which will be publicly released for consultation in mid-January 2025.

The announcements about the upcoming report and the composition of the team have garnered attention from media outlets and institutions, with several publishing the news on their platforms and in their publications. Some of the most recent clips can be accessed [here](#).

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 received 51 contributions by 12 December.

The HLPE-FSN launched the call for experts to draft report #21 on 16 September 2024. The deadline was 16 December 2024. A total of 201 applications were received by 12 December.

The HLPE-FSN Steering Committee is to be renewed in 2025, for a 2-year term starting at the closure of the CFS’s ordinary Plenary session in October 2025 and ending at the closure of the ordinary Plenary session in 2027. The nomination procedure is entirely web-based via the online application form. The call will be open from 10 January 2025 to 10 March 2025.

5. CFS Chairperson's outreach and global engagements

From 14 to 18 November the CFS Chairperson travelled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to participate in **the G20 Social Summit**, which took place in advance of the G20 Summit. While in Rio de Janeiro, she also contributed as a panelist to an International Seminar on “The eradication of hunger and the reform of global governance: necessary dialogues and convergences” organized by CONSEA. During the G20 Social Summit, the Chair spoke in the plenary as well as at a Roundtable on “Social participation and the fight against hunger”. The Chairperson used this opportunity to highlight the significant engagement potential for the CFS in the context of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, which was endorsed by the G20 in Brazil.

On 18 November, the Chairperson participated in an **online meeting of the UN Food Systems Summit Advisory Board** to which she had been invited by UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed. Through the participation in the Advisory Board, the CFS can further enhance its collaboration with other international fora relevant for food security and nutrition.

The CFS Chairperson delivered video messages to two online events, which took place in early December, a **webinar organized by the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanisms** titled “Why the Committee of Food Security is Relevant to Any Philanthropic Foundation Committed to Food Systems Transformation” on 4 December, and a **workshop organized by the Norwegian Competence Network for Food and Human Rights and the German Institute for Human Rights** on 5 December. Both occasions provided an opportunity for increased visibility of the CFS and its policy products.

On December 5 and 6, the Chair was invited to attend the **16th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. As the CFS Chair was unable to travel to Riyadh, her statements in two high-level events and one side event were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Fatimata Cheiffou of Niger with support by the CFS Secretariat. The Chair’s statements highlighted the important synergies between the work of the CFS and the Rio Conventions, especially with reference to the High Level Forum on “Tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation through the Right to Food” scheduled for 2025.



From 15 to 18 January 2025, the CFS Chairperson will travel to Berlin to attend the **Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA)** organized by the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture. During the GFFA the Chair will participate as a speaker in the opening of the conference as well as in the opening session of the Green Week agricultural fair, which takes place in Berlin in parallel. The Chair will further moderate an expert panel on “Securing Land Tenure Rights: Key to fair framework conditions for advancing the right to food” as well as one of the breakout sessions of the Agriculture Ministers’ Conference. In addition to these speaking engagements, the GFFA also provides an opportunity for the Chair to attend a number of bilateral meetings with high-level representatives of delegations attending the GFFA.

On 22 January, the CFS Chairperson has been invited by Switzerland to join an **event entitled “Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty: aligning policies, finance and knowledge for impact”** as a speaker, which will take place in Davos, Switzerland on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.