

## CFS 53

# SATELLITE SESSIONS ON STRENGTHENING CFS PARTNERSHIPS WITH RELEVANT INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Monday, 20 October 2024

## Draft Concept note

### Introduction

Three parallel satellite sessions will be held during lunchtime of Day One of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The objective of these sessions is to stimulate interactive dialogues on existing and potential partnerships between CFS and relevant international initiatives and on how to make the best use of the CFS multistakeholder platform and its evidence-based policy products to promote food security and nutrition. While these sessions will not be part of the CFS 53 Provisional Agenda, their outcomes will be reported back to the Plenary by Rapporteurs identified within the CFS Membership. The sessions will be characterized by an interactive format and focus on the following topics:

- **Session 1:** Promoting responsible governance of tenure: the role of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (CFS VGGT) in the context of the Second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICCARD+20);
- **Session 2:** Keeping food security and nutrition high on the global agenda: the role of CFS and its policy products in the context of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, G20 and G7;
- **Session 3:** Eradicating hunger and all forms of malnutrition: the role of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in the context of the Nutrition for Growth Summit and the United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4).

The three moderated sessions will be co-organized and co-financed by different stakeholders.

A concept note for each Satellite Session is proposed below. Additional information will be included by the co-organizers when defined and identified.

## **SATELLITE 1 – PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE: THE ROLE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS (CFS VGGT) IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ICARRD+20);**

### **Background**

The first FAO International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), hosted by Brazil in 2006 marked a historic milestone in advancing international understanding and dialogue on access to land and its role in the fight against hunger, rural poverty, and sustainable rural development.

The ICARRD Final Declaration proposed concrete actions by the international community, governments, producer's organizations, civil society organizations, and other actors to promote more equitable access and transparent and accountable land and natural resources governance. It invited the Committee on World Food Security and the FAO Committee on Agriculture to follow its recommendations. In this regard, the CFS adopted in 2012 the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (CFS-VGGT), which have guided the formulation of land and rural development policies in several countries. Similarly, issues of equitable access to land and natural resources have gained prominence in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with five Sustainable Development Goals that include targets and indicators related to access to land and tenure security (End Poverty - SDG 1; Zero Hunger - SDG 2; Gender Equality - SDG 5; Sustainable Cities and Communities - SDG 11; Life of Terrestrial Ecosystems - SDG 1).

Almost twenty years later, there is a need to: (i) take stock of the achievements of the first ICARRD and the CFS-VGGT; (ii) assess persisting food security and nutrition challenges related to the governance of tenure; and (iii) contextualize land policies within the multiple ongoing crises: climate, financial and food.

To this end, Colombia will be hosting a second Intergovernmental Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 2026 (ICARRD+20), under the auspices of FAO, to relaunch dialogue and international cooperation on the issue of equitable access and security of land tenure.

### **Objectives**

This panel discussion aims at advancing preparations for ICARRD +20 by providing a space for reflection and exchange on the different ways in which the implementation of the CFS-VGGTs has led to real impact on the ground, including through: the empowerment of stakeholders in actively engaging in tenure-related decision -making processes; the establishment of inclusive multistakeholder platforms; the promotion of political engagement and sustained political dialogue at national and local level; and the incorporation of the CFS-VGGT in national policies, laws and strategies.

### **Expected outcomes**

Concrete CFS inputs to ICARRD+20 are identified, aiming at reviewing progress at CFS 54 in 2026.

A Rapporteur's summary is presented to the Plenary along with a short text proposal to be considered for inclusion in CFS 53 final report as part of item II f).

### **Proposed guiding questions**

- 1) How did your country integrate the CFS-VGGT into its national policies and strategies?
- 2) What were the key factors contributing to the positive outcome of the implemented activities?
- 3) What were the main structural challenges and constraints faced and how could they be overcome?

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## **SATELLITE 2 - KEEPING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION HIGH ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA: THE ROLE OF CFS AND ITS POLICY PRODUCTS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY, G20 AND G7.**

### **Background**

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has been reformed in 2009 to be *“the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings”*.

According to its agreed vision, CFS has the responsibility to be at the forefront in the global fight against hunger and malnutrition, constantly raising international attention to food security and nutrition, promoting policy convergence and guidance through the development of internationally agreed policy instruments, as well as providing a platform for discussion and coordination to strengthen collaborative actions among relevant stakeholders.

However, effective food security and nutrition governance requires integration of what is agreed at the global level into regional and national development priorities and strategies.

In this context, it is of key importance to identify potential opportunities of collaboration and to strengthen linkages with relevant ongoing global initiatives on food security and nutrition that present complementarities as well as common goals and areas of engagement.

In 2024, under the Brazilian Presidency of the G20, the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty was launched. The Alliance has two main objectives. The first is to provide sustained political momentum and foster collective action, building synergies with other existing efforts to combat hunger and poverty. Furthermore, the Alliance is intended to facilitate and mobilize domestic and international financial resources, as well as knowledge, to enable large-scale implementation of public policies.

In its foundational documents, it is stated that the Global Alliance aims to be an additional avenue to implement actions recommended under CFS policy products, and that the Global Alliance will liaise with and provide reports and suggestions to CFS, as well as consider CFS’s guidance and inputs, as a way to promote effective collaboration and establish a two-way exchange of inputs and feedback.

Furthermore, the great variety of policy instruments developed in the context of CFS on a wide range of food security and nutrition-related topics represent legitimate tools that could be used to inform the development of the Policy Basket of the Global Alliance.

The strong emphasis given by the current G20 South African Presidency to food security and nutrition – through a dedicated Task Force – represents another important opportunity for relevant collaboration. Similarly, the attention by the G7 Canadian Presidency to food security and nutrition – in particular the G7 Apulia Food Systems Initiative launched in 2024 during the Italian Presidency – is an additional point of departure for joint actions and activities.

More specifically, concrete ideas could be brought to the table on how CFS policy products could be used to inform discussions and negotiations of ministerial declarations and statements on matters concerning food security and nutrition.

The focus of this satellite session is to identify possible areas of collaboration between CFS and these global initiatives, discuss potential contribution of CFS policy products to the deliberations of these fora, and share views on how the global platform function of CFS could be used to disseminate outcomes of these initiatives in the field of food security and nutrition.

### **Objectives**

- Identify concrete proposals for future areas of collaboration between CFS and other international initiatives, such as the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, with a view to strengthening coordinated actions and policies as well as to promoting the use of CFS policy products to inform the implementation of national strategies, legislation, policies and programmes;
- Discuss possible ways to use CFS policy products as a way to raise the attention to food security and nutrition in the contexts of international strategies and fora, such as the G20 and the G7, as well as to promote their inclusion in multilateral negotiations;
- Discuss proposals to systematically use the CFS platform as a global space for the presentation and discussion of outcomes of other relevant global initiatives to promote harmonization and coordination between different actors and efforts in the field of food security and nutrition.

### **Expected outcomes**

- Concrete steps for collaborative actions with other international initiatives to promote the use of CFS policy products are identified, aiming at reviewing progress at CFS 54 in 2026.
- A Rapporteur's summary is presented to the Plenary along with a short text proposal to be considered for inclusion in CFS 53 final report as part of item II f).

### Proposed guiding questions

1. Which synergies can be created by the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty to address fragmented approaches to food insecurity and malnutrition, and which specific areas of collaboration with CFS can be promoted?
2. Which areas of collaboration can be promoted between CFS and relevant international initiatives, such as the G20 and the G7, to keep food security high on the global agenda?
3. How can the convening power of CFS be leveraged to discuss outcomes and results achieved by relevant global food security and nutrition initiatives providing a space for discussion and coordination?

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## **SATELLITE 3 – ERADICATING HUNGER AND ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION: THE ROLE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NUTRITION FOR GROWTH SUMMIT AND THE FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT+4**

### **Background**

Despite global commitments and efforts, hunger and malnutrition persist, driven by inequality, poverty, climate change, conflict, and economic shocks. With only five years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), progress remains alarmingly insufficient. According to the 2025 SOFI report, approximately [ ... million people faced hunger in 2024]. In addition, progress towards achieving the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets on nutrition by 2025 is insufficient.

Malnutrition, in all its forms, has complex and interrelated causes that must be addressed simultaneously. These causes manifest differently across populations, influenced by factors such as gender, age, wealth, and other social determinants. This ongoing challenge threatens not only the achievement of the 2030 Agenda but also the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

Given the multifaceted nature of food insecurity and malnutrition, solutions must be equally multidimensional and cross-sectoral. A truly transformative shift in agriculture and food systems—one that ensures access to safe, healthy, and nutritious diets—requires genuine collaboration among all stakeholders. Strengthening collective action at all levels remains central to the mission of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which serves as a global, evidence-based, intergovernmental, and multi-stakeholder platform to promote policy convergence and coherence in support of national efforts.

Since its reform in 2009, CFS has developed key policy tools that provide practical guidance for addressing food security and nutrition challenges, including the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food System and Nutrition (VGFSN) and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA). These tools inform policies, programs, and investments across diverse sectors. Global initiatives such as the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit and the 2025 United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) further accelerate progress by fostering multistakeholder financial, policy and programmatic commitments aimed at tackling malnutrition while promoting food systems that are sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

At the heart of these global efforts, CFS plays a critical role in ensuring policy coherence and preventing fragmentation among various international initiatives addressing hunger and poverty. In this context, the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises stand out as a key policy instrument. These guidelines provide a holistic, rights-based, and coordinated approach to food security and nutrition, helping to align national policies, laws, programs, and investment plans toward more sustainable and equitable food systems.

This Satellite Event will explore how the VGFSN and the FFA can enhance policy coherence and drive concrete actions in support of the commitments made at the 2025 N4G Summit and the UNFSS+4. By leveraging these guidelines, stakeholders can advance coordinated, multi-sectoral strategies that strengthen food systems, improve nutrition, and ultimately contribute to a world free from hunger

## Objectives

This panel discussion aims to:

- Examine how international efforts can be harmonized to tackle the multifaceted challenges of hunger and malnutrition effectively by convening key stakeholders from major global initiatives, and fostering dialogue on coordinated actions;
- Explore pathways for stronger collaboration and policy coherence by highlighting the potential role of the VGFSN and FFA and discussing challenges and opportunities in integrating these Voluntary Guidelines into national policies and global and regional initiatives;
- Strengthen synergies and potential collaborations between the Committee, the Nutrition for Growth Summit, and the Food Systems Summit+4 to accelerate progress toward SDG2 (Zero Hunger).

## Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness and commitment to implementing the VGFSN and FFA at national, regional and global levels.
- Strengthened collaboration among stakeholders to ensure alignment with the N4G Summit and FSS+4 priorities and identify concrete steps for joint activities, aiming at reviewing progress at CFS 54 in 2026.
- A Rapporteur's summary is presented to the Plenary along with a short text proposal to be considered for inclusion in CFS 53 final report as part of item II f).

## Proposed guiding questions

1. How can governments and other key stakeholders, across sectors, effectively integrate the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSN) into national policies and strategies to accelerate progress toward eradicating hunger and all forms of malnutrition?
2. In the face of emerging challenges how can global frameworks such as N4G and UNFSS +4 join efforts and strengthen accountability to better support the eradication of hunger and enhance the implementation of the VGFSN?
3. How can the UNFSS+4 and the N4G Summit commitments accelerate collective action, strengthen coordination among UN agencies, member states, and other stakeholders, foster meaningful partnerships, and prioritize actions to secure financing and ensure food systems contribute more effectively to ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030?