

FOLLOW-UP TO THE CFS ACTION PLAN TO STRENGTHEN THE UPTAKE OF CFS POLICY PRODUCTS

I. INTRODUCTION

At the 52nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held in October 2024, the [Action Plan to Strengthen the Uptake of CFS Policy Products](#) was endorsed. The Action Plan presents a roadmap with actions for different CFS stakeholders that are responsible for promoting the use of CFS policy products at all levels.

In light of this, the present document is intended to stimulate a discussion concerning the follow-up activities to be undertaken to promote the implementation of the Action Plan.

For each recommendation, potential follow-up actions are presented for consideration and discussion at the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 18 March 2025. The objective is to provide the basis for an action-oriented discussion on how to strengthen the efforts and promote coordination among all those stakeholders that are responsible for promoting the uptake of CFS policy products.

This exercise is in line with recommendation 3.3 which mandates the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group to track the implementation of the Action Plan.

This is intended to be a “living document” that will be periodically updated based on discussions and inputs by relevant CFS stakeholders.

The third section of the document includes the proposed calendar for 2025 which presents topics, areas of focus and specific recommendations that could be discussed in the course of this inter-sessional period.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN THE ACTION PLAN AND POTENTIAL FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Recommendations specifically relevant for the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group

Recommendation 3.2 – Dedicated regular **agenda items** will be held during **CFS plenaries to discuss progress, challenges and ways to improve the use of CFS policy products** at all levels. These dialogues could be an opportunity to share and discuss lessons learned from CFS uptake experiences, particularly in pilot countries that uptake CFS products on a voluntary basis, with a view to informing future strategies for the promotion of the use of CFS policy products and feeding the preparation of the future CFS programmes of work by identifying best practices.

- Proposed follow-up action: The Bureau and Advisory Group will oversee the organization of a session at CFS 53 dedicated to discussing progress, challenges and ways to improve the use of CFS policy products at all levels

Recommendation 3.3 – The **CFS Bureau and Advisory Group** will track the implementation of the present Action Plan. Furthermore, the CFS Secretariat will periodically **organize informal intersessional dialogues** to provide a space for CFS stakeholders to report on the activities carried out in response to the Action Plan, analyze CFS funding requirements and ways of mobilizing resources, to raise awareness about the time required for effective policy change as well as to identify ways to link the CFS monitoring mechanism with other existing initiatives and mechanisms. Furthermore, discussions could focus on ways to improve data collection of use of CFS policy products, including through questionnaires to countries, and collaboration with reporting systems existing at country level. CFS plenary sessions will involve a dedicated agenda item on tracking the implementation of the Action Plan by the Bureau and Advisory Group, based also on these informal dialogues and deliberations.

- Proposed follow-up action: The Bureau and Advisory Group will oversee the organization of an informal intersessional dialogue that would inform future discussions, including at CFS 53, on progress, challenges and ways to improve the use of CFS policy products

PART 1 – ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE USEFULNESS AND OWNERSHIP OF CFS POLICY PRODUCTS

Recommendation 1.A.1 - CFS Members and Participants, in line with the prioritization criteria outlined in Annex B of the CFS Implementation Report, will foster an **effective and streamlined prioritization of topics** for CFS policy convergence processes during the development of each CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). A **strategy for promoting awareness and use**, including resource requirements, **will be linked to each policy convergence process** and included in each CFS MYPoW

- Proposed follow-up action: A presentation of the agreed prioritization criteria will be delivered to CFS Members and Participants at the beginning of the next CFS MYPoW process at the end of 2026. The template for the preparation of preliminary proposals will include specific questions on the relevance of these proposals to the prioritization criteria. Furthermore, CFS stakeholders will be asked to provide specific indications for the development of an uptake strategy to be associated to each CFS policy convergence process.

Recommendation 1.A.2 - The **RBA**s, other **UN bodies and international organizations** should contribute their **technical expertise** and capacities to ensure that CFS policy products add value to relevant policy work.

- Proposed follow-up action: RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations will continue providing technical inputs and expertise, through their participation in the process concerning the preparation of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

Recommendation 1.B.1 - CFS Members and Participants will ensure that CFS policy products are **concrete, concise, understandable, user-friendly and actionable** in terms of structure and language. In this regard, CFS policy products will **focus on potential users and implementers** at national and local levels, being guided by the CFS vision and the needs of the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition and anchored to realities on the ground. **Sufficient time** for the provision of inputs and discussions, as well as negotiations, and where possible, informal sessions **to discuss controversial topics** will be provided.

- Proposed follow-up action: At the beginning of each policy convergence process, CFS Members and Participants will discuss ways to ensure that CFS policy products are concrete, concise, understandable, user-friendly and actionable. Time should also be allowed to discuss and reflect about potential users and implementers of the policy products. Furthermore, workplans of policy convergence processes will foresee sufficient time for discussions and provisions of inputs.

Recommendation 1.B.2 - CFS Members and Participants will apply **inclusive CFS policy convergence processes**, in line with the CFS Reform Document and its Rules of Procedure. Meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders from different sectors, including representatives from all relevant ministries (including experts from capitals) as well as from other constituencies is expected, to help increase policy convergence as well as ownership of the final output at local, national and regional levels.

- Proposed follow-up action: CFS Members and Participants will engage relevant stakeholders from their constituencies at every stage of CFS policy convergence processes. At the beginning of policy processes, the CFS Secretariat will prepare informational materials on the policy areas that will be addressed to raise awareness and increase interest and ownership at country level. Opportunities for reporting on the implementation of this recommendation will be provided in the context of CFS intersessional events as well as in the CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise. This recommendation should be implemented along with recommendations 2.B.2 and 2.B.3

Recommendation 1.B.3 - The RBAs, other **UN bodies and international organizations** should **provide technical inputs to the development of CFS policy products** and promote collaboration with existing UN initiatives and processes, in the context of ongoing CFS policy convergence processes, as a way of increasing future ownership, visibility and use of CFS policy products.

- Proposed follow-up action: At the beginning of each CFS policy convergence process, a list of existing UN initiatives and processes that are relevant to the areas of discussion will be prepared with a view to strengthening linkages with them and promote visibility and wider use of CFS policy products.

PART 2 – ACTIONS TO PROMOTE AWARENESS AND USE OF CFS POLICY PRODUCTS

Recommendation 2.A.1 – The CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with **technical units of the RBAs**, and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, will **develop a toolkit** that various stakeholders can use to promote awareness and use and to enhance the understanding of CFS policy products at all levels. This

toolkit should include **indications of how different stakeholders can support the integration of CFS policy products into policies, programmes and legal frameworks** as a way to ensure a more coordinated and impactful implementation. This toolkit should include an **analysis** based on the experiences from the uptake of CFS main policy products **that draws lessons learned, successful cases, challenges faced, main barriers and enablers for success**. The analysis is intended to identify different patterns as well as key drivers and factors that led to the use or to the lack of use of CFS policy products.

- Proposed follow-up action: An analysis to identify different patterns as well as key drivers and factors that led to the use or to the lack of use of CFS policy products is being carried out by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and it will be presented at the first intersessional dialogue on CFS uptake.
- Proposed follow-up action: The analysis, when finalized, will inform the preparation of the CFS Uptake Toolkit that will be developed by the CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Recommendation 2.A.2 - The **CFS Secretariat** will develop an action-oriented **communication strategy** for consistent and coherent **dissemination and promotion of CFS policy products** to relevant target audiences. This communication strategy will make strategic use of different media platforms, look at strengthening collaboration with different media outlets, explore innovative approaches to showcase the impact of CFS policy products, and promote the development of easy-to-understand materials that give visibility to CFS policy products, particularly those which require enhanced communication efforts due to their recent adoption.

- Proposed follow-up action: CFS Secretariat will present an updated version of the CFS Communication Strategy, with a focus on the dimensions concerning the promotion of the use of CFS policy products.

Recommendation 2.A.3 – **CFS Members** should **use and apply CFS policy products in national strategies, legislation, policies and programmes**, adapting their implementation to national priorities and realities, targeting activities to relevant groups and stakeholders, and developing inclusive decision-making processes, with engagement of relevant stakeholders, while prioritizing the voices of the most affected by food insecurity.

- Proposed follow-up action: Regular opportunities will be provided in the context of CFS intersessional meetings and plenary sessions to CFS Members to present concrete examples of use of CFS policy products at national level.

Recommendation 2.A.4 - **CFS Members, the RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations** should use the content of **CFS policy products as a reference for the preparation of their projects and programmes** to ensure their alignment to CFS policy guidance.

- Proposed follow-up action: A segment of the first intersessional dialogue on uptake will be dedicated to a presentation by World Bank of the outcomes of their efforts in reviewing all agri-food pipeline projects against the content and recommendations of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines

on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSN). These reviews have not only helped the World Bank identify projects with a strong alignment with VGFSN but also highlighted areas where projects could be enhanced to promote diversified nutritious foods in a more effective manner. The goal is to build on this system, by recording best practices, and ensuring that these best practices are accessible to World Bank task teams and other donors in a way which makes a menu of impactful intervention options available to positively influence project design.

Recommendation 2.A.5 - Civil Society and non-governmental organizations and their networks should continue to **develop training, advocacy and capacity building activities** for local and national practitioners engaged in the use of CFS policy products, supported by the RBAs as feasible.

- Proposed follow-up action: An annual written report will be prepared by the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM) to inform CFS stakeholders of the activities carried out by civil society and non-governmental organizations to develop training, advocacy and capacity building activities for local and national practitioners engaged in the use of CFS policy products. These reports would feed into the development of the CFS digital repository (see recommendation 3.1). Discussions should take place on ways to avoid overlaps with the CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise.

Recommendation 2.A.6 - Private sector organizations should continue to support and encourage companies to **integrate the principles and objectives of CFS policy products** into their corporate social responsibility, programmes, projects, and investments.

- Proposed follow-up action: An annual written report will be prepared by the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) to inform CFS stakeholders of the activities carried out by private sector organizations to support companies to integrate the principles and objectives of CFS policy products into their corporate social responsibility, programmes, projects, and investments. These reports would feed into the development of the CFS digital repository (see recommendation 3.1). Discussions should take place on ways to avoid overlaps with the CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise.

Recommendation 2.A.7 - Philanthropic foundations should support and encourage the **integration of CFS policy products into programmes** dealing with food security and nutrition and disseminate them across their networks of donors.

- Proposed follow-up action: An annual written report will be prepared by the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism (PFM) to inform CFS stakeholders of the activities carried out by philanthropic foundations to integrate CFS policy products into programmes dealing with food security and nutrition and disseminate them across their networks of donors. These reports would feed into the development of the CFS digital repository (see recommendation 3.1). Discussions should take place on ways to avoid overlaps with the CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise.

Recommendation 2.A.8 - The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations, in coordination with UN Resident Coordinators and UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) National Convenors, should, in a coordinated way and on a demand-driven basis, promote the integration and adaptation of **CFS policy products into national and regional legislations, technical programmes and policy frameworks**, through their technical, capacity building and institutional support activities to governments and national authorities as well as regional institutions.

- Proposed follow-up action: A segment of the first intersessional dialogue on uptake will be dedicated to a presentation of activities carried out to support the uptake of CFS policy products. This will represent an opportunity to have an informed discussion on the role of different actors and the importance of coordination and collaboration in the promotion of the use of CFS policy products at national level. In this context, the CFS Secretariat will present an overview of the CFS coordination function as well as of the CFS Umbrella Programme.

Recommendation 2.A.9 - The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations, in particular **International Financial Institutions**, should explore opportunities for **joint programming and resource mobilization to support the implementation of CFS policy products**, leveraging their comparative advantages and expertise.

- Proposed follow-up action: An open dialogue will take place to discuss ways to operationalize this recommendation.

Recommendation 2.A.10 – The CFS Chairperson will **advocate for use of CFS policy products** by decision and policy makers and **collaborate** with CFS Members, RBAs and other relevant stakeholders to **find opportunities to disseminate and raise awareness about them**.

- Proposed follow-up action: Periodic updates of the different opportunities used by the CFS Chair to advocate for the use of CFS policy products will be provided, for instance in the context of the meetings of the Bureau and Advisory Group. This recommendation should be implemented along with recommendation 2.C.1.

Recommendation 2.A.11 - All CFS stakeholders should promote the **translation of CFS policy products into national and local languages** in order to make them available to and usable by a wider audience.

- Proposed follow-up action: Additional extra-budgetary resources need to be mobilized by CFS stakeholders in order to promote the translation of CFS policy products into national and local languages.

Recommendation 2.B.1 - The CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with **technical units of the RBAs**, and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, will carry out a **mapping exercise of existing national and regional multistakeholder platforms** in the field on food security and nutrition with a view to strengthening linkages and fostering cross-sectoral dialogues to facilitate the use of CFS policy products.

- Proposed follow-up action: Extra-budgetary resources need to be mobilized in order for CFS Secretariat to carry out this activity, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (see recommendation 3.5).

Recommendation 2.B.2 - CFS Members should **establish or strengthen and use national multistakeholder and cross-sectoral structures and mechanisms** in the field of food security and nutrition to elevate the platform for the promotion of the use of CFS policy products and to discuss how these can be implemented and adapted to national contexts as well as how they can foster dialogue and collaboration between different stakeholders, while following a human rights-based approach to food security and giving priority representation to organizations of those sectors of the population most affected by food insecurity and those most capable of taking action on food security and nutrition. Furthermore, these platforms could play a key role in informing the development of national negotiating positions in the context of CFS policy convergence processes.

- Proposed follow-up action: Following the mapping of existing national and regional multistakeholder platforms (recommendation 2.B.1), space should be given in the context of CFS meetings, either in the intersessional period and in plenary sessions, to present concrete examples of how national multistakeholder structures can promote the use of CFS policy products as well as their adaptation to national contexts.

Recommendation 2.B.3 - CFS Members should identify a **CFS focal point at country level** in the most relevant ministries or multistakeholder platforms that could be actively and regularly engaged in promoting the dissemination, use and application of CFS policy products as a way for countries to optimize information sharing and collaboration on CFS-related matters.

- Proposed follow-up action: Discussion to take place at Bureau and Advisory Group level on the possibility to create a digital repository with names and contact details of CFS focal points at country level.
- Proposed follow-up action: Discussion to take place at Bureau and Advisory Group level on potential ways of interaction with CFS national focal points.

Recommendation 2.C.1 - CFS Members should advocate, with the support of **CFS Participants**, for active engagement and a **role for CFS in relevant international fora** and for the inclusion of **CFS policy products in multilateral negotiations**

- Proposed follow-up action: A list of future relevant international fora and multilateral negotiations where the role of CFS and the inclusion of CFS policy products can be promoted will be prepared. Periodic updates will be provided by the Bureau and Advisory Group member on their efforts to promote the role of CFS in the context of these international initiatives.

Recommendation 2.C.2 - The **RBA**s, **other UN bodies and international organizations** should organize regular **awareness raising, capacity building and sharing of best practices sessions** with their staff at Headquarters and at regional and national levels, including with their national representatives and Resident Coordinators, to inform them about CFS policy products, discuss how they can inform their

work at all levels and create synergies with ongoing initiatives, including, but not limited to, the Rio Conventions, UNFSS National Pathways and G20.

- Proposed follow-up action: Following the development of the CFS Uptake Toolkit, and pending available resources, the CFS Secretariat will design different types of resources, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, which may be used by the RBAs, other UN Bodies and international organizations to raise awareness and build capacities in the use of CFS policy products. The different resource formats will depend on the nature and mandate of the audience as well as on the expected objectives (i.e. general awareness raising on potential use of CFS policy products; more focused session on the use of a specific policy product; or targeted session on a specific region/country/context).

Recommendation 2.C.3 - The **RBAs**, other **UN bodies** and **international organizations** should strengthen the **presence of CFS** and include regular agenda items on CFS in the context of **global and regional meetings of their governing bodies** and strengthen linkages between CFS and their technical committees in order to raise awareness about CFS policy products, generate discussions on how they could inform the development of their programmes of work and identify potential synergies and ways of collaboration.

- Proposed follow-up action: Discussion to take place at Bureau and Advisory Group level on ways to strengthen linkages between CFS and governing bodies and technical committees of the RBAs and other international organizations.

PART 3 – CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENED UPTAKE OF CFS POLICY PRODUCTS

Recommendation 3.1 – The **CFS** will strengthen its strategy for monitoring and evaluating the use of its policy products, based upon the existing monitoring framework that was endorsed in 2018. In particular, a consolidated overview of uptake activities should be provided by adding to the CFS webpage a **digital repository that includes information on the use of CFS policy products at global, regional, national and local levels**. The preparation of the CFS repository should be carried out by the CFS Secretariat, in close collaboration with technical units of the RBAs that are involved in CFS uptake activities, and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders. This exercise should also be informed by the outcomes of the different CFS Global Thematic Events organized throughout the years. There should also be a space where CFS stakeholders can at any time comment on the current relevance of a specific policy product.

- Proposed follow-up action: Extra-budgetary resources need to be mobilized in order for the CFS Secretariat to carry out this activity, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (see recommendation 3.5).

Recommendation 3.4 - The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (**HLPE-FSN**) will prepare a **compilation of key elements from CFS policy products** to help relevant stakeholders identify gaps in CFS policy products as well as guide action towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the transformation of agriculture and food systems.

- Proposed follow-up action: Extra-budgetary resources need to be mobilized in order for the HLPE-FSN to carry out this activity, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (see recommendation 3.5).

Recommendation 3.5 - CFS Members and all relevant stakeholders should engage in **mobilization of voluntary financial and non-financial, public and private contributions** to support the development of activities aimed at promoting the usefulness, ownership, awareness and use of CFS policy products.

- Proposed follow-up action: CFS Secretariat will present an overview of its resource mobilization efforts for uptake activities, including for the implementation of recommendations 2.B.1 (mapping of existing multistakeholder partnerships), 3.1 (digital repository), and 3.4 (HLPE-FSN compilation) of the CFS Uptake Action Plan.
- Proposed follow-up action: CFS stakeholders will be periodically invited to report on their activities concerning the mobilization of resources to promote the uptake of CFS policy products.
- Proposed follow-up action: Discussion will take place at Bureau and Advisory Group level on ways to strengthen CFS resource mobilization efforts.

III. CALENDAR FOR 2025

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
Bureau and Advisory Group meeting to discuss: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up to the Action Plan Concept note of intersessional dialogue Concept note of the Uptake Session at CFS 53 Furthermore, the agenda of the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting includes follow-up discussions concerning: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.A.2: Update on the CFS Communication Strategy 3.5: Update on the CFS Resource Mobilization Strategy 	18 March 2025
Written inputs by Bureau and Advisory Group members on the follow-up to the Action Plan and on the concept notes of the intersessional dialogue and the uptake session at CFS 53	19 March – 9 April 2025
Bureau and Advisory Group meeting to discuss: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.B.3: CFS national focal points 	27 May 2025
Informal intersessional dialogue	13 June 2025
Bureau and Advisory Group meeting to discuss: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.C.1: role for CFS in relevant international fora 2.C.3: interlinkages between CFS and relevant governing bodies and technical committees 	September 2025
CFS 53	October 2025