

CFS workstream “Strengthening the uptake of CFS policy agreements” Norway 06.05.2024

Overall comments

The priorities that we submitted in the last round still stand (see Annex 1). We will not repeat all these here. In addition, we have some specific comments on the current draft:

Member states and follow up at national levels: Member states have the main responsibility to integrate the guidelines into policies, legal frameworks and by laws at national and local levels. To strengthen country ownership, participation, coordination, stakeholder buy-in, and accountability, CFS policy products should be aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework at country level. The UNSDCF will reflect both the governments priorities and the norms of the UN. The UN resident coordinator should play a main role through dialogue with the ministries of finance and planning, as well as relevant line ministries.

Resource requirements: Norway looks forward to receiving greater detail about the budgetary and resourcing requirements of the suggested actions. This will help the CFS, the HLPE, the RBAs and other international organizations contribute to the prioritization of topics for CFS policy processes. Greater details on resource requirements could also contribute to narrowing down the set of outlined actions in the action plan. It is important that the CFS does not create additional structures but complement and make use of structures that already exist.

Timeframe for the actions: Norway would welcome greater detail on the envisaged timeframe for the actions. This could help the CFS prioritise a set of actions that can be implemented in the short, medium, and long term.

Monitoring and evaluation: Norway would welcome greater detail on monitoring and evaluation and the indicators that will be used. For instance, the action plan could draw on the innovative monitoring mechanism from 2018.

Ownership: Norway would like to strengthen the language on ownership in the current draft. The current definition focuses too strongly on usefulness. For instance, the definition could be aligned with principle 7 on “Strengthen country ownership, participation, coordination and stakeholder buy-in, and accountability” in the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition.

Norway underscores that the action plan should focus on that ownership requires the meaningful participation of different actors throughout the CFS policy process, in the design of processes through to implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Capacity building: for different actors to meaningfully participate to ensure the uptake of CFS policy products, it is necessary to also focus on capacity building activities. The current draft has a strong focus on awareness-raising and communication actions.

Right to food: The realization of the right to food, and its related norms, are parts of the foundation and overarching framework of CFS. Norway appreciates the reference to the realization of the right to food in the current draft but would like a stronger focus on how the action plan could contribute to and strengthen a human rights-based approach.

RBAs: the unique role of the RBAs in contributing to uptake of CFS policy products should be recognised and not grouped together with other international organisations.

Civil society and the private sector: Norway underlines the importance of recognizing the role of civil society and the private sector in facilitating the uptake of CFS policy products. The current draft could strengthen the recognition of the important role of these actors.

STRENGTHENING THE UPTAKE OF CFS POLICY AGREEMENTS

ZERO DRAFT OF THE ACTION PLAN

Introduction

In line with the indications provided in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027, this Action Plan is intended to present a roadmap with actions for different CFS stakeholders that are responsible for **promoting the uptake**¹ of CFS policy agreements at global, regional, national and local levels towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food².

This exercise is based on the recognition that strengthening the usefulness, ownership, awareness and use of CFS policy agreements is a collective responsibility that requires **joint efforts** as well as close collaboration between relevant stakeholders. While **Member States have the primary responsibility** for promoting the CFS and the use and application of its policy agreements, this needs to be the result of a **collaboration with and strong engagement and participation by the different CFS stakeholders**, such as the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) and other UN and international bodies, financial, research and philanthropic institutions, civil society and the private sector. This collaborative effort requires coordination, which is intended to be promoted in the framework of this CFS workstream dedicated to strengthening the uptake of CFS policy agreements.

The Action Plan is structured around **three main sections** that include tiered actions to be addressed by CFS and different CFS stakeholders, with proposed activities to be undertaken, based on available resources, respectively, to strengthen the usefulness and ownership of CFS policy agreements, promote awareness and their use among intended users, and to advance cross-cutting areas that refer to the ability to raise resources, monitor activities and provide a platform for discussions for interested stakeholders. A draft table with indications on stakeholders responsible for the implementation of

¹ For the purpose of this Action Plan, promoting uptake refers to increasing the “usefulness”, “use”, “awareness” and “ownership” of CFS policy processes and agreements. To have a common understanding, the following description of these terms are proposed, without representing a precedent for other CFS workstreams or for future CFS negotiated policy agreements:

- a) Usefulness: the more a CFS policy agreement responds to the needs of CFS stakeholders, the more useful it can be. The degree of usefulness depends on what happens prior to the endorsement of a policy agreement, and it is influenced by factors concerning the prioritization of topics for CFS policy workstreams, the process that leads to the development of a CFS policy agreement, and the concreteness and applicability of the agreed recommendations.
- b) Use: the use of a CFS policy agreement happens after its endorsement when strategies, programmes and policies are designed and developed, based on the CFS agreement. Usefulness and use are intrinsically linked to each other: the more useful a policy agreement in terms of the topic and the actionability, the higher the likelihood that this agreement is used.
- c) Awareness is a necessary prerequisite for the use of a policy agreement by CFS stakeholders. The more stakeholders are aware of a policy agreement, the higher the likelihood that it is used.
- d) Ownership is the level of identification of CFS stakeholders with a policy agreement, or parts of it. It can vary across and within stakeholder categories. While it depends on the usefulness of a policy agreement, the ownership impacts its use by the relevant stakeholders

² [In line with The Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.](#)

specific actions, tentative timeline for their completion as well as budget requirements, is annexed at the end of the Action Plan.

This Action Plan represents ongoing discussions among CFS stakeholders about how to dynamically and over time seek to constantly improve the uptake of CFS agreements. This will reflect the reality that identifying best practices and implementing them is an ongoing process. As such, this Action Plan is meant to represent a guide and the starting point for a living process that draws on different experiences, practices and actions.

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

A: Promote an effective prioritization of topics for CFS policy processes

1.A.1 – The **High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN)** will prepare a **compilation** of key elements from CFS policy agreements to help relevant stakeholders identify gaps in CFS policy agreements towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the transformation of agriculture and food systems.

1.A.2 – **CFS Members and Participants**³, in line with the prioritization criteria outlined in Annex B of the CFS Implementation Report, will create an effective and streamlined prioritization of topics for CFS policy processes during the development of the **CFS MYPoW beginning with the 2028-2031 version**.

Prioritization of themes for CFS policy processes will be linked to national priorities, [priorities of CFS members and participants](#), as well as to their alignment with priorities of relevant UN bodies, including the RBAs. A strategy for promoting future awareness and use, including resource requirements, will be linked to each policy process and included in the CFS MYPoW.

1.A.3 – **The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations** should contribute their technical expertise and capacities to ensure that CFS policy agreements are fit for purpose and add value to existing policy work.

B: Promote the development of concrete and actionable CFS policy agreements, their ownership and visibility, through inclusive CFS policy processes

1.B.1 – **CFS Members and Participants** will ensure that CFS policy agreements are **concrete, concise, understandable, user-friendly and actionable** in terms of structure and language. In this regard, CFS policy agreements will focus on potential users and implementers at country level. Sufficient time for the

³ In line with paragraph 11 of the CFS Reform Document, CFS Participants include representatives of UN agencies and bodies with a specific mandate in the field of food security and nutrition, civil society and non-governmental organizations, international agricultural research systems, international and regional financial institutions, and representatives of private sector associations and private philanthropic foundations.

provision of inputs and discussions, as well as negotiations, and where possible, informal sessions to discuss controversial topics will be provided.

1.B.2 — **CFS Members and Participants** should apply inclusive **CFS policy processes**. Meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders from different sectors and different actors, including representatives from all relevant ministries (including experts from capitals), civil society, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector is expected across the CFS policy process, to help increase policy convergence as well as ownership of the process and final output at local, national and regional levels.

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

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

A: Develop uptake strategies and activities, and provide technical support

2.A.1 - The **CFS**, in collaboration with the **RBAs**, **will develop a toolkit** that various stakeholders can use to promote awareness and use and to enhance the understanding of CFS policy agreements at local, national, ~~and~~ regional, and international levels. This toolkit should include indications of how different stakeholders can support the integration of CFS policy agreements into national 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 agreements by different actors⁴ that draws on lessons learned, successful cases, challenges faced, main barriers and enablers for success.

2.A.2 - The **CFS will develop a communication strategy** for consistent and coherent dissemination and promotion of CFS policy agreements 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 agreements, and promote the development of easy-to-understand materials that give visibility to CFS policy agreements.

2.A.3 - **CFS Members should use and apply** CFS policy agreements in national strategies, policies and programmes, adapting their implementation to national priorities and realities and targeting activities to relevant groups and stakeholders, including women, smallholders, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and chronic illnesses, elderly people and youth.

2.A.4 - **The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations**, in coordination with UN Resident Coordinators and UNFSS National Convenors, **should provide technical and institutional support** to governments and national authorities as well as regional institutions to promote the integration and

⁴ Including actors from civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and the private sector.

adaptation of CFS policy agreements into national and regional legislations, technical programmes and policy frameworks.

2.A.5 - **The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations should use the content of CFS policy agreements as a reference for the preparation of their projects and policies to ensure their alignment to CFS policy guidance.**

2.A.6 - The **RBAs** should identify **countries** from various regions where the application of specific policy agreements can be promoted, based on national priorities and contexts.

2.A.7 - **Private sector companies** should **integrate** the principles and objectives of **CFS policy agreements** into their **corporate social responsibility, programmes, projects and investments**.

2.A.8 - **Philanthropic foundations** should **support** and encourage the **integration of CFS policy agreements into programmes** dealing with food security and nutrition and disseminate them across their networks of donors.

2.A.9 - **Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and non-governmental organizations** should **develop training, advocacy and capacity building activities** for local and national practitioners engaged in the use of CFS policy agreements.

2.A.10 - **All CFS stakeholders** should **promote the translation of CFS policy agreements into national and local languages** in order to make them available to and usable by a wider audience.

B: Creating an enabling environment at national level with empowered stakeholders, inclusive institutions and enhanced policy and legal frameworks

2.B.1 - The **CFS**, in collaboration with FAO, WFP and IFAD, will carry out a **mapping exercise of existing national and regional multistakeholder platforms** with a view to strengthening linkages and fostering cross-sectoral dialogues to facilitate the use of CFS policy agreements.

2.B.2 - **CFS Members** should use **national multistakeholder and cross-sectoral structures and mechanisms** in the field of food security and nutrition to help elevate the platform for the promotion of the use and to discuss how CFS policy agreements can be implemented and adapted to national contexts as well as how they can foster dialogue and collaboration between different stakeholders. Furthermore, these platforms could play a key role in informing the development of national negotiating positions in the context of CFS policy processes.

2.B.3 - **CFS Members** should **identify CFS focal points** at country level in the most relevant ministries or multi-stakeholder platforms to promote the dissemination, use and application of CFS policy agreements.

C: Mainstreaming CFS policy agreements in and strengthening linkages with international strategies and fora

2.C.1 - **CFS Members** should advocate for active engagement and a role for CFS in relevant international fora and for the inclusion of CFS policy agreements in multilateral negotiations.

2.C.2 - The **Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies and international organizations should organize regular awareness raising 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 agreements, discuss how they can inform their work at all levels and create synergies with ongoing initiatives, such as the UNFSS National Pathways.

2.C.3 - The **RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations should strengthen the presence 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 agreements, generate discussions on how they could inform the development of their programmes of work and identify potential synergies and ways of collaboration.

PART 3 – CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENED UPTAKE OF CFS PROCESSES AND POLICY AGREEMENTS

3.1 – The CFS will **strengthen its strategy for monitoring and evaluating the use of its policy agreements**. 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 agreements at global, regional, national and local levels. The preparation of the CFS repository should be carried out in close collaboration with relevant technical units, especially of the RBAs, involved in CFS uptake activities and it 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 agreement.

3.2 – The **CFS will dedicate regular agenda items during CFS plenaries to discuss progress, challenges and ways to improve the use of CFS policy agreements** at all levels. These dialogues could be an opportunity to share and discuss lessons learned from CFS uptake experiences with a view to informing future strategies for the promotion of the use of CFS policy agreements and feeding the preparation of the future CFS programmes of work by identifying best practices. These regular spaces for discussion could also be used to analyse 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 agreements and collaboration with reporting systems existing at country level.

3.3 – The **CFS will establish an Open-Ended Working Group** that is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the present Action Plan, for providing a space for CFS stakeholders to report on the

activities carried out in response to the Action Plan, and to prepare the regular agenda items that will take place in the context of future CFS plenaries.

3.4 - 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 agreements.

3.5 - 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 agreements, leveraging their comparative advantages and expertise.

ANNEX A – TABLE OUTLINING ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES, TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE STAKEHOLDER	TENTATIVE TIMELINE	BUDGET ESTIMATE
A.1 -Preparation of a compilation of key elements from CFS policy agreements	HLPE-FSN	To be determined	
1.A.3 - Bring technical expertise and capacities, in order to ensure that CFS policy agreements are fit for purpose and add value to existing policy work	The Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies and international organizations	During the process dedicated to the preparation of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)	
1.B.1 - Ensure that CFS policy agreements are concrete, understandable, user-friendly and actionable, focusing on potential users, allowing sufficient time for the provision of inputs, discussions and for negotiations and, where possible, foreseeing informal sessions to discuss controversial topics	CFS Members and Participants	During CFS policy processes	
1.B.2 - Apply inclusive CFS policy processes, promoting the participation of relevant stakeholders	CFS Members and Participants	During CFS policy processes	
B.3 - Provide technical inputs and promote collaboration with existing UN initiatives and processes, in the context of ongoing CFS policy processes	The Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies and international organizations	During CFS policy processes	
2.A.1 – Prepare a toolkit with indications on potential use of CFS policy agreements, an analysis based on the experiences from the uptake of CFS main policy agreements	CFS in collaboration with the RBAs	To be finalized before CFS 53 in October 2025	
A.2 – Develop the CFS communication strategy	CFS	To be presented at CFS 53 in October 2025	
A.3 - Use and apply CFS policy agreements in national strategies, policies and programmes	CFS Members	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement	
2.A.4 – Provide technical and institutional support to governments, national authorities and regional institutions to promote the integration and adaptation of CFS policy agreements into national and regional legislations, technical programmes and policy frameworks	The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations, in coordination with UN Resident Coordinators and UNFSS National Convenors	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement	

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE STAKEHOLDER	TENTATIVE TIMELINE	BUDGET ESTIMATE
2.A.5 - Use content of CFS policy agreements as a reference for the preparation of projects	The Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies and international organizations	Continuous exercise to be carried out as part of the project planning processes	
2.A.6 – Identification of countries from various regions where promote the application of CFS policy agreements	CFS in collaboration with FAO, WFP and IFAD	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement	
2.A.7 - Integrate the principles and objectives of CFS policy agreements into corporate social responsibility and investments	Private sector companies	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement	
2.A.8 – Support and encourage integration of CFS policy agreements into FSN programmes and disseminate them across their networks of donors	Philanthropic foundations	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement	
2.A.9 - Develop training, advocacy and capacity building activities for local and national practitioners	Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and non-governmental organizations	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement	
2.A.10 - Promote translation of CFS policy agreements into national and local languages	All CFS stakeholders	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement	
2.B.1 - Carry out a mapping exercise of existing national and regional multistakeholder platforms	CFS in collaboration with FAO, WFP and IFAD,	Preliminary version to be presented at CFS 53 in October 2025	
2.B.2 - Use national multistakeholder and cross-sectoral structures and mechanisms in the field of food security and nutrition	CFS Members	Continuous exercise	
2.B.3 – Identify CFS focal points at country level in the most relevant ministries or multi-stakeholder platforms	CFS Members	Continuous exercise	
2.C.1 - Advocating for an active engagement and role for CFS in relevant fora and for the inclusion of CFS policy agreements in multilateral negotiations	CFS Members	Continuous exercise	
2.C.2 - Organize regular awareness raising sessions with staff at Headquarters and at regional and national levels, including with their national representatives and Resident Coordinators	RBAs and other UN bodies and international organizations	Continuous exercise	

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE STAKEHOLDER	TENTATIVE TIMELINE	BUDGET ESTIMATE
2.C.3 - Strengthen the presence 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	The Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies and international organizations	Continuous exercise	
3.1 – Strengthen its strategy for monitoring and evaluating the use of CFS policy agreements and preparation of a digital repository that includes information on the use of CFS policy agreements at global, regional, national and local levels	CFS in close collaboration with relevant technical units, especially of the RBAs	To start after the endorsement of the Action Plan at CFS 52	
3.2 – Inclusion of regular agenda items during CFS plenaries to discuss progresses, challenges and ways to improve the use of CFS policy agreements at all levels	CFS	Regular discussions to take place during CFS Plenaries	
3.3 – Establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group that is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the present Action Plan	CFS	After the endorsement of the Action Plan at CFS 52	
3.4 - Engage in mobilization of contributions to promote the use of CFS policy agreements	CFS Members and all relevant stakeholders	Continuous exercise	
3.5 - Explore opportunities for joint programming and resource mobilization to support the implementation of CFS policy agreements	RBAs and other UN bodies, international organizations, and International Financial Institutions	Continuous exercise	

Annex 1: Norwegian priorities last consultation round

1: The proposed structure of the document

- Norway **welcomes the approach of presenting a roadmap** with actions to be carried out by different stakeholders that are responsible for promoting the use of CFS policy agreements at global, regional, and national levels.
- It is **not clear how different actions link up across different stakeholder groups**. It would be useful with a **framework or model** to map out the relevance of actions across different stakeholder groups.
- We would welcome a greater emphasis on **how to incentivise the implementation** of actions by different stakeholder groups.
- Norway looks forward to receiving greater detail about the budgetary and resourcing requirements of the suggested actions. Budgeting and resourcing requirements should help the CFS to **identify and prioritise actions** needed to improve ownership and utilisation of CFS products.

2: Additional areas of action that may have been left out from the Outline.

- The current document is very ambitious, it is important to **prioritise a set of actions**.
- We would also welcome the **inclusion of timelines, specific objectives, and budget requirements** for each of the actions.

Norway would welcome a greater emphasis on:

- **Ownership** among relevant actors. This requires inclusion of diverse stakeholders throughout the policy processes, in the design of processes through to implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Should have a **rights-based approach** enabling rights holders to claim their rights and their authorities to uphold those rights, including the right to food. With a particular focus on indigenous peoples' rights, women's rights, workers' rights, children's rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities.
- **Improved data collection and analysis of uptake and impact** of CFS policy products across different population groups and at local, national, regional, and global levels.
- Integration of CFC policy products in national and local **legislation and regulations**.
- Greater focus on and recognition the **responsibilities of the Rome-based Agencies** in contributing to this work.
- **Monitoring and evaluation**, including improved **data collection and analysis** of awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of all CFS policy outcomes.

- **Analysis and lessons learned** to identify main **barriers and enablers of success** for uptake of CFS products at regional, national, and local levels.

3: How the existing areas of action could be further expanded or elaborated in the next versions of the document.

The current draft is an ambitious plan with many good proposals, however, it would be important to prioritise a set of actions and focus areas, given the availability of resources in the CFS.

In particular, Norway welcomes the focus on

- **Mapping of tools and platforms that can assist CFS in their work.**
- **The development of a communication strategy.**
- **The focus on resource mobilisation efforts.**
- **The organisation of events, activities, and trainings** to raise awareness and promote uptake of CFS policy products.
- **The ambition to identify key stakeholders** across sectors and at national, regional and global levels who can assist with the work.
- Improve collaboration across UN system. UN resident coordinators should be mobilised and utilised to the extent possible.

On some of the specific actions:

- To develop **concrete, understandable, and actionable** CFS policy agreements, it is necessary to involve diverse technical sources, stakeholders, and sectors.
- The **identification of pilot countries** is a good way forward. However, it is important to learn from both successes and challenges and to ensure that pilot countries represent different regions.