Rome 16th October 2015

High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

HLPE Steering Committee Members

The following 15 world-renowned experts have been appointed by the Bureau\(^1\) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to serve as members of the Steering Committee of the HLPE, from the closure of CFS 42 Plenary (15 October 2015) until the closure of the CFS 44 Plenary (October 2017).

Mr Amadou Allahouy (Niger)
Mr Patrick Caron (France)
Ms Louise Fresco (the Netherlands)
Ms Joanna Hewitt (Australia)
Ms Carol Kalafatic (USA)
Ms Eileen Kennedy (USA)
Mr Muhammad Azeem Khan (Pakistan)
Mr Bernardo Kliksberg (Argentina)
Mr Fangquan Mei (China)
Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini (Iran)
Mr Michel Pimbert (United Kingdom)
Mr Juan Ángel Rivera Dommarco (Mexico)
Ms Magdalena Sepúlveda (Chile)
Mr Martin Yemefack (Cameroon)
Mr Rami Zurayk (Lebanon)

Members of the HLPE Steering Committee participate to the work of the HLPE in their individual capacities and not as representatives of their respective governments, institutions or organizations.

The HLPE Steering Committee will designate its new Chair and Vice-Chair at its upcoming meeting, 2-4 November 2015 in FAO, Rome.

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\(^1\) This list has been updated on 15th October 2015 by the CFS Bureau, following the unavailability of Mr Khor (Malaysia), for personal reasons.
Amadou Allahoury

Amadou Allahoury Diallo is currently the FAO Representative in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. Formerly, he was from October 2011 to May 2015 High Commissioner (Minister) at Niger President office for the national strategy for Food Security and Agriculture development called 3N Initiative “Les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens”. Trained in Niger, France and Burkina Faso, he has a long-standing commitment to food security issues at national, Africa and global levels. Mr Allahoury spent about fifteen years working at national level mostly as a rural development projects manager, then at regional level to work on food security and agricultural water management issues at the Inter State Committee against Drought in Sahel (CILSS) in Ouagadougou, at the New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) in Johannesburg and at the regional office of the FAO in Accra. He has contributed to the elaboration of important strategic documents for Africa such as the CAADP pillar 1 “Sustainable land and water management”, the collaborative programme of ADB, FAO, IFAD, IWMI called “Investment in Agricultural Water for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa”, the FAO paper on “Water for Food in West and Central Africa”. At global level he has been involved as peer reviewer to the World Bank “Agricultural water investment sourcebook” and in the evaluation of FAO’s role and work related to water. He has been panellist of numerous global UN events on food security. Mr Allahoury has been HLPE Steering Committee in the previous term 2013-2015.

Patrick Caron

Patrick Caron is a veterinary doctor, PhD and HDR (“habilitation à diriger des recherches”) in geography. He is a specialist of farming systems and territorial dynamics, with a special focus on livestock farming. He joined CIRAD in 1988 where he is since 2010 Director-General for research and strategy, after having served as scientific director for the “Territories, Environment and People” Department of CIRAD (2001-2004) and as “Environments and Societies” Department director from 2007 to 2010. His works relate to the analysis of the role of agriculture and livestock in rural transformations, particularly in Brazil, Southern Africa and the Near East. He specially looks at the trans-scales combination of processes and actions (from household to international levels) which underpin changes at the territorial level, and, in return, at the capacity of territory to play a regulatory function. He is a member of many institutional and inter-institutional bodies. He is chairing the Scientific Council of AgroParisTech. He is a member of several journals’ editorial committees and worked in several scientific committees of international conferences. In 2015 he chaired the Organizing committee of the Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture (Montpellier, France). He is the author of more than two hundred publications in international journals and conference proceedings.

Louise Fresco

Louise Fresco is currently President of the Wageningen University and Research, in the Netherlands. She combines a long national and international academic career, with an extensive involvement in policy and development. She received two national prizes – Commenius and Groeneveld – for her work. She is a member of five Academies, including the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences, and is Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Academy of Sciences of South Africa. She served for nearly ten years as Assistant Director-General at the UN-FAO. She is also a member of the Trilateral Commission, of the Council of Advisors of the World Food Prize, and of the Socio-Economic Council, the highest advisory body in the Netherlands. In 2014 she chaired the evaluation of the 7th Framework Program for R&D of the EU Commission. She is non-executive director of Unilever and served in Rabobank’s supervisory Board. Involved in many philanthropic and cultural foundations, she serves in the board of the Concertgebouw Orchestra and in the editorial board of the Dutch literary magazine De Gids. She authored twelve books, including three novels. Her book “Hamburgers in Paradise. Food in times of scarcity and abundance” gave way to a Dutch TV series documentary “Fresco’s Paradise”. She has a fortnightly column in the leading daily NRC, and published numerous op-eds, including the famous Science editorial “The GMO Stalemate in Europe”. In 2009 she gave a TED talk in Palm Springs and participated in the Nobel Prize Dialogues in Stockholm and Tokyo. Her speeches and publications can be found her website.
Joanna Hewitt

Joanna Hewitt is a former Secretary of the Australian Government’s Department of Agriculture (2004-2007) and was Commission Chair of ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research) from 2011-2014. She previously held senior positions in the Australian Government including as Lead Negotiator for the WTO, APEC Ambassador and Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg. She held senior roles in previous years in agriculture, trade and industry policy and was Special Envoy for the Australian Prime Minister during 2012. She was head of Division in the Agriculture Directorate of the OECD in Paris from 1992-96. Since leaving government service in 2007 she has undertaken a number of public policy consulting tasks for the OECD, IFPRI and others. She has also served as a director on company boards in Australia and the United States. Joanna Hewitt graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Economics (Honours First Class) and from the London School of Economics with an MSc (Econ). She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Economics from the University of Western Australia in 2012. She currently lives in Mumbai, India. Ms Hewitt has been HLPE Steering Committee in the previous term 2013-2015.

Carol Kalafatic

Since 1991 Carol Kalafatic has worked with indigenous peoples (IPs), small farmers, and scientists, as an educator and policy advocate on indigenous peoples’ sustainable development, food security, food sovereignty and well-being. She was for seven years Associate Director of Cornell University’s American Indian Program. Also, she served for five years as Coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, and for four years as Indigenous Peoples’ Focal Point of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty. She was founding Coordinator of the Right to Food Program of the International Indian Treaty Council, established the initiative on cultural indicators of indigenous peoples’ food and agro-ecological systems, and has served on a number of non-profit Boards. She was lead author of the framework for FAO’s Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, and for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples: Building on Biological and Cultural Diversity for Food and Livelihood Security (2009). She co-authored the participatory inquiry, Strengthening Dialogue: UN Experience with Small Farmer Organizations and Indigenous Peoples (2009). In addition to lecturing at Cornell University and other universities, she designed roundtables on sustainable food systems and innovations for collaboration among food producers, scholars and extension specialists. Her research interests include food sovereignty, the role of bio-cultural diversity in climate resilience, and dynamic heritage systems. Ms Kalafatic has been HLPE Steering Committee member in the term 2013-2015.

Eileen Kennedy

Eileen Kennedy is Professor of Nutrition and former Dean of the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. She received her Bachelor’s Degree from Hunter College in New York City, a Masters in nutrition from the Pennsylvania State University and a Masters and Doctor of Science degree from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Kennedy has over 30 years’ experience in US domestic and international policy. Her research has focused on the effects of government policies and programs on health, nutrition, food security and poverty alleviation. She was part of the development of TEAM nutrition program within USDA. Dr. Kennedy was the chief architect of the Healthy Eating Index, a single summary measure of diet quality used by government agencies for monitoring and evaluation. Dr. Kennedy has held academic appointments at Tufts University, Columbia University, Cornell and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. In conjunction with Dr. David Satcher, surgeon general, Dr. Kennedy co-chaired the 2000 US National Nutrition Summit. Dr. Kennedy was a member of the UN/SCN Advisory Group on Nutrition. In 2014 she was appointed to the Global Council on Food and Nutrition Security of the World Economic Forum.
Muhammad Azeem Khan

Muhammad Azeem Khan holds a PhD in Resource Economics from the University of Reading, UK and is the Director General of the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) in Islamabad, a federal organization carrying out research in all areas of agriculture including food and fiber crops, horticulture, vegetables, livestock, poultry, fisheries, farm mechanization, natural resources, alternate energy, genetic resources, bio-technology, honey bees, food processing, eco-toxicology etc. As a research manager, Dr Khan’s main responsibility lies in the interaction with policy makers, international centers and development partners, for planning R&D activities in high priority areas. Dr Khan is also Dean/Rector of the Pakistan Institute of Advanced Studies in Agriculture (PIASA). Throughout his career, he has focussed on crop-livestock development, coordination of the socio-economic component in the multidisciplinary research (system diagnostic studies, need assessments, priority setting, technological interventions choices, baseline studies, farm profitability analyses, etc.) throughout Pakistan, in collaboration with local research, as well as on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and impact analysis. As a chief Executive of PARC Agro-Tech Company (PATCO), Dr Khan worked jointly with rural communities and the private sector for the commercialization of new technologies and agricultural products in Pakistan.

Bernardo Kliksberg

Bernardo Kliksberg is a doctor in Economics and Management. He has been an advisor to more than 30 countries on fighting poverty, social development, and public policies, as well as Special Advisor of ONU, UNDP, UNESCO, PAHO, UNICEF, OIT, and other international organizations. He is author of 56 books, and hundreds of works on critical areas of development, social capital, the fight against poverty, public administration, corporate social responsibility and ethics for development. Among his recent books are: People First written with Amartya Sen: How to cope with poverty and inequality. An international perspective; Ethics for CEOs; and More ethics, more development. His books, papers, advisory work and research, apply an interdisciplinary approach integrating contributions of different social sciences with a focus on the fight against poverty. He has been awarded dozens of honorary doctorates by universities in multiple countries. Among the latest are: at King Juan Carlos University of Spain, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, National University of Buenos Aires, Interamerican University of Mexico, San Marcos University of Peru. He is the President of the Ibero-American Universities network for business social responsibility (250 Universities of 23 countries), and the Latin-American Universities network for social entrepreneurship (120 universities of 15 countries). He was member of the HLPE Steering Committee in the previous term 2013-2015.

Fangquan Mei

Mei Fangquan graduated from the Department of Biology in Wuhan University in September 1962. Mr Mei has been engaged in scientific research in Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) focusing on the research of grain and food security and the agricultural development strategy for China. Among his engagements some highlights include: Director-General, Honorary Director-General, Professor at Scientech Documentation and Information Center (SDIC - renamed the Agricultural Information Institute), CAAS and Vice Standing President, State Food and Nutrition Advisor Committee. In his career, Mr Mei has received a number of prestigious awards, including: the first and second National Scientech Progress Award 3 times, and the Ministry Award 5 times. Mr Mei has published more than 100 papers, has been in charge of writing and compiling 13 copies of monographic works and trained 78 postgraduates (Ph.D. and M.S.). He has participated worldwide to international academic conferences including FAO 50th Anniversary, the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), the World Food Production Conference and Asia Conference on Nutrition etc. He has carried out extensive international cooperation and academic exchange activities.
Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini

Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini is currently Vice president and member of the Governing Council, National Development Fund of Iran, since 2014. He obtained his MS in Agricultural Economics from the University of Tehran and his PhD in International Economics and Development (Supporting Fields: Farm Management and Production Economics, Economic Theory) from Cornell University. He is Professor of International economic development at Shahid Beheshti University, having served 7 years as the Vice-President of the University. His whole career has been devoted to agriculture, food security and the food and nutrition welfare of rural and urban people, both in his home country of Iran and internationally. Highlights of particular importance for Food Security include: Chairmanship of the Intergovernmental Working Group for the Elaboration of a Set of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (2003 – 2004); Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security (1998-2000); Chairmanship of the FAO Conference Committee on Follow-up to Independent External Evaluation of FAO (November 2007 – 2009); Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council (November 2005-2009); and President of WFP’s Executive Board (2000). Dr Noori Naeini has extensively published and presented at international conferences worldwide. He translated to Persian two Nobel Prize winners’ books: Amartya Sen’s "Development as Freedom" and Theodore Schultz’s "Transforming Traditional Agriculture".

Michel Pimbert

Michel Pimbert is the Director of the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University in the UK and a former Fellow at the Rachel Carson Centre for Environment and Society at the University of Munich in Germany. An agricultural ecologist by training, he previously worked at the UK-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India, the University François Rabelais de Tours in France, and the World Wide Fund for Nature in Switzerland. He has also done policy research for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), The World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Dr. Pimbert has been a Board member of several international organisations working on food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, and human rights. His research interests include: enabling policies and practices for agroecology and food sovereignty; the governance and adaptive management of biodiversity and natural resources; participatory action research methodologies; and deliberative democratic processes. Over the last 30 years he has published extensively in these areas, linking theory and practice to inform policy making on food, agriculture, environment, and human well-being. Mr Pimbert has served the HLPE Steering Committee in the previous term 2013-2015.

Juan A. Rivera Dommarco

Juan A. Rivera Dommarco is the Founding Director of the Center for Research in Nutrition and Health at the National Institute of Public Health and Professor of Nutrition in the School of Public Health of Mexico. He earned his master’s and doctorate degrees in International Nutrition from Cornell University. He has published over 300 scientific publications on the epidemiology of malnutrition (undernutrition and obesity) and food insecurity in Mexico, efficacy trials and the design and evaluation of policies and programs aimed at improving food security and nutrition in the populations. He has coordinated the food and nutrition component of Mexican National Nutrition Surveys in 1999, 2006 and 2012 and has evaluated several food distribution programs in Mexico including a Federal Milk Distribution Program (LICONSA) and the food and nutrition components of a Federal cash-transfer program (PROSPERA, formerly OPORTUNIDADS AND PROGRESA) which covers about 6 million low income households and has a nutrition component. He was an Academic Member of the Mexican National Council for the Evaluation of Social Policy (CONEVAL). He also coordinated the National Academy of Medicine multidisciplinary group in charge of developing a position on obesity; is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, the Mexican Academy of Sciences, the Latin American Society of Nutrition and the American Society of Nutrition. He was President of the Global Council (formerly SINR) of the American Society for Nutrition and is President Elect of the Latin America Society of Nutrition.
Magdalena Sepúlveda

Magdalena Sepúlveda is Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). From 2008 to 2014 she was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. Ms. Sepúlveda is a Chilean lawyer who holds a Ph.D in International Law from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, an LL.M in human rights law from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom and a post graduate diploma in comparative law from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Ms. Sepúlveda’s 20-year career has focused on the intersection of poverty, development and human rights and has bridged research and activism. She has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as a staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as the Co-Director of the Department of International Law and Human Rights of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica and as a Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy, in Geneva. She has also served as a consultant to several international organizations including UNHCR, ILO and OHCHR and worked with a range of NGOs in formal and informal capacities. She has published widely on human rights, poverty and development and has taught various post graduate courses at universities in Latin America. She is currently a member of the faculty of Oxford University’s Summer Course on Human Rights. Ms Sepúlveda has served the HLPE Steering Committee in the previous term 2013-2015.

Martin Yemefack

Martin Yemefack is Visiting Scientist at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA-Cameroon), President of Africa Soil Science Society (ASSS), Expert Member of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soil (ITPS) of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) for the second term. He is an Associated Research Professor from the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) and the UMMISCO of the University of Yaoundé 1, with a background of soil science and land evaluation. His career in agricultural research for development has led him to specialize in the use of spatial modelling tools for land, land use and environmental resources evaluation, especially within the small-scale farming environment of the tropics where climate-dependent shifting cultivation is the main practice. With the increasing impact of temporal climate variations within this environment, the notion of climate change has also gain ground in his career. Over more than 25 years of on-farm research, he has accumulated a valuable experience on in-depth understanding of the tropical environment and its transformation into more productive system to guarantee food security, life quality and improved livelihood of related populations. He has produced more than 60 related scientific publications. He has also served from 2006 to 2014 as head of the unit coordinating national research activities in the Cameroonian Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation.

Rami Zurayk

Rami Zurayk is a professor at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut, chair of the department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management and acting director of the Interfaculty Graduate Environmental sciences Program. A veteran civil society activist, he is a founding member of the Arab Food Sovereignty Network, an advisory board member of SEAL (Social and Economic Action for Lebanon) and a policy advisor for Al Shabaka, the Palestinian Policy Network. He is also an advisory board member and a columnist for the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development. He has served as advisor to the minister of agriculture in Lebanon in the years 2004-2005 and 2006-2008, and has worked and written extensively on the Arab World, focusing on the political ecology of Arab food security and its linkages with the agrarian question. His latest work includes Bread and Olive Oil: The Agrarian Roots of the Arab Uprisings (with Anne Gough, Cambridge, 2014); Control Food, Control People: The Struggle for Food Security in Gaza (with Anne Gough, IPS, 2013) and Food, Farming and Freedom: Sowing the Arab Spring (Just World Books, 2011). He obtained his BSc and MSc from the American University of Beirut and his DPhil from Oxford University.
The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the foremost inclusive and evidence-based international and intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition, where policies can be designed, interventions can be coordinated, options can be shared and decisions at different levels can be prepared.

The CFS is inclusive. In addition to member countries, the Committee includes a wider range of organizations working on food security and nutrition, from UN agencies like FAO, IFAD, WFP, the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and other UN bodies. It also includes the private sector, the civil society and non-governmental organizations, particularly organizations representing smallholder family farmers, fisherfolks, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people.

The CFS is evidence-based. The High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) was created in October 2009 as an essential element of the reform of the CFS, as its science-policy interface.

The HLPE produces, at CFS’s request, independent assessments to provide analysis, understanding and advice on urgent policy relevant questions. HLPE reports serve as a common, comprehensive, evidence-based starting point for intergovernmental and international multi-stakeholder policy debates at CFS.

HLPE’s links to CFS ensures the relevance of its work and its insertion in a concrete political agenda at international level. The HLPE produces its recommendations and advice independently from governmental positions, in order to enrich discussions and debates at CFS. The internal process is crafted to guarantee the scientific inclusiveness and the independence of the HLPE.

The HLPE aims to help CFS to better understand the diversity of issues and rationales when dealing with food and nutrition insecurity. It thrives to clarify contradictory information and knowledge, elicit the backgrounds and rationales of controversies, and identify emerging issues. The HLPE organizes a scientific dialogue, built upon the diversity of disciplines, backgrounds, knowledge systems, the diversity of its Steering Committee and Project Teams, and open e-consultations.

The HLPE is not mandated to conduct new research. The HLPE draws its studies based on existing research and knowledge already conducted by various expertise-providing institutions (universities, research institutes, international organizations etc), and adding value by global, multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary analysis. HLPE recommendations and studies combine scientific knowledge with experiences from the ground, in a same rigorous process. The HLPE translates the richness and variety of forms of expert knowledge from many actors (knowledge of local implementation, knowledge based on global research and knowledge of “best practice”) that draw on both local and global sources, into policy-related forms of knowledge.

Key functions of the HLPE, as stated in the CFS reform document (2009)

As directed by the CFS Plenary and Bureau, the HLPE will:

1. Assess and analyze the current state of food security and nutrition and its underlying causes.
2. Provide scientific and knowledge-based analysis and advice on specific policy-relevant issues, utilizing existing high quality research, data and technical studies.
3. Identify emerging issues, and help members prioritize future actions and attentions on key focal areas.

The HLPE has a two-tier structure:

- A Steering Committee composed of 15 internationally recognized experts in a variety of food security and nutrition related fields. The Steering Committee is appointed by the CFS.
- Project Teams acting on a project specific basis, selected and managed by the StC.

HLPE Steering Committee members and Project Team members participate to the work of the High Level Panel of Experts in their individual capacities and not as representatives of their respective governments, institutions or organizations.

More information about the HLPE can be found on its website: www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe
Since its establishment in 2010, the HLPE has produced 9 reports, all followed by debates in CFS and adoption of policy recommendations. It has also produced in 2014 a study on Critical and emerging issues for food security and nutrition.

Following the requests from CFS in 2014, the HLPE is currently working on 2 reports: Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, including the role of livestock to be presented to CFS in 2016 and Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition, to be published in 2017.

To download the reports, please visit the HLPE website at: www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe

For more information, write to the HLPE Secretariat at: cfs-hlpe@fao.org