

## **FAO SUBMISSION TO THE HLPF 2017:**

### **KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS EMERGING FROM FAO'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES RELEVANT TO THE HLPF 2017 THEME AND THE SDGs UNDER EXAMINATION**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

The key policy recommendations contained herein emerged from the FAO Technical Committees held in 2016 and 2017, notably:

- 25<sup>th</sup> Session Committee on Agriculture (COAG) (Rome, Italy 26 – 30 September 2016)
- 32<sup>nd</sup> Session Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (Rome, Italy, 11-15 July 2016)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Session Committee on Forestry (COFO) (Rome, Italy, 18-22 July 2016)
- 71<sup>st</sup> Session Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) (Rome, Italy, 4-6 October 2016)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Session Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (Rome, Italy, 30 January-3 February 2017)

as well as the FAO Regional Conferences held in 2016, notably:

- 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City, Mexico, 29 February-3 March 2016)
- 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 4-8 April 2016)
- 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Putrajaya, Malaysia, 7-11 March 2016)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (Antalya, Turkey, 4-6 May 2016)
- 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (Rome, Italy, 9-13 May 2016)

The Technical Committees of FAO and the FAO Regional Conferences conduct periodic general reviews of the issues within their respective sector, which are of an international character and appraise such problems and their possible solutions with a view to concerted action by Member Nations, FAO and other intergovernmental bodies, and report on them to the FAO Conference. A comprehensive description of FAO's Governance Structure, including the FAO Conference, as well as the role of the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, is contained in Annex 1.

During their last sessions, the Technical Committees discussed issues of relevance for the HLPF, both in dedicated items on the 2030 Agenda and in thematic items that identify emerging global challenges in their respective sectors and recommended effective actions towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This submission also reflects the recommendations of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, an FAO Statutory Body. The Regional Conferences focus their work on the specific challenges of the respective Region, therefore, their recommendations are clustered in a way that reflects a regional perspective.

In line with the cycle of Governing Body sessions at FAO (please refer to Annex I) the reports of the Technical Committees, FAO Regional Conferences, as well as the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on policy and regulatory matters from which the recommendations below are

drawn, will be submitted to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference scheduled from 3 to 8 July 2017 for review and endorsement. The inputs have been validated by the Chairpersons of the aforementioned bodies and have been collated corporately by FAO.

## **B. KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM FAO'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEES:**

The recommendations below are based on and referenced from the Committees' respective reports and have been clustered across broad themes. The Committees provide broader and more comprehensive reviews following the suggested template in the corresponding annexes to this submission (Annexes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6).

- **Interlinkages**

Invited Members to strengthening dialogue with agriculture, fisheries and other relevant sectors on joining efforts for transformative change towards the achievement of the SDGs, in particular on actions to eradicate hunger and eliminate poverty, while conserving and sustainably managing natural resources in line with the recommendations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). (COFO)

Recognized the key role agriculture plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stressed the need to promote actions that balance the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental – and that are more integrated across agriculture, forestry and fisheries. (COAG)

Recalled the importance of aquaculture for food security, nutrition, poverty alleviation, income generation, employment and trade, and noted the need to improve the contribution of small-scale aquaculture towards these benefits. (COFI)

Recognized that the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture, and their integration in land-use plans, contribute strongly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring food security and helping to tackle climate change. (COFO)

Invited countries to raise awareness of the important roles of the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) and of access and benefit-sharing (ABS) for genetic resources for food security and nutrition. It also invited countries to integrate GRFA into their food security and nutrition policies, including public research and extension programmes, public procurement and education policies, and market and value chain development, with the aim of arriving at policies that support food security, adequate nutrition, and the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA. (CGRFA)

Underlined the need to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of developing countries to better undertake analysis of the implications and opportunities of trade and related policies for food security and nutrition. (CCP)

Recommended that assistance be provided to developing countries to facilitate policy dialogue for improving alignment and coherence between agricultural development strategies and trade-related frameworks and policies. (CCP)

- **Sustainable Agriculture (agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture)**

Recommended to strengthen public-private and private-private partnerships in financing for Sustainable Forest Management. (COFO)

Recognized that the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture, and their integration in land-use plans, contribute strongly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring food security and helping to tackle climate change. (COFO)

Reiterated the importance of pollinators, in particular honey bees, of microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion, food processing and agro-industrial processes, of biological control agents and of soil organisms. (CGRFA)

Invited countries to continue raising awareness of the important roles of livestock producers and of livestock species and breeds in the provision of ecosystem services. (CGRFA)

Expressed concern about the state of fish stocks globally, noting that the proportion of overfished stocks had increased and highlighted the threat of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to the sustainability of marine resources. (COFI)

Welcomed the entry into force of the 2009 FAO [Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing](#) (PSMA) and encouraged the non-Parties to join the Agreement. (COFI)

Noted that the implementation of the PSMA would not eliminate IUU fishing on its own, and highlighted the importance of addressing IUU fishing through all appropriate means, including strengthened flag State performance, coastal State responsibilities and market measures. (COFI)

- **Biodiversity**

Requested countries to mainstream biodiversity in agriculture, including livestock to promote its contribution to ecosystem services and to climate change adaptation and mitigation. (COAG)

Acknowledged the key role biodiversity for food and agriculture plays for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and stressed the need to adequately reflect this role in national development strategies. (CGRFA)

- **Food Security and Nutrition**

In follow up to ICN2 in the agriculture and livestock sector endorsed the sustainable nutrition sensitive agriculture approach taking into account all stages of the food system and encouraged countries to mainstream nutrition into national and regional agricultural policies and programmes. (COAG)

Recognized that the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture, and their integration in land-use plans, contribute strongly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring food security and helping to tackle climate change. (COFO)

Underscored the importance of aquaculture in the provision of livelihoods and fish as food as the sector now provided more than half of all fish for human consumption. Acknowledged opportunities provided by the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to reinforce the nutrition-focus of fisheries and aquaculture development. (COFI)

Acknowledged the contribution of pulses to sustainability, food security, nutritional health, environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation. (COAG and CCP)

- **Climate Change**

Invited interested countries to strengthen institutional frameworks and processes to ensure sound forestry and integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to climate change, including considering integrating forests into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and/or their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) as appropriate. (COFO)

Invited interested countries to:

- (i) improve governance and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, to effectively capitalize on and utilize both existing financial instruments and mechanisms and the opportunities resulting from the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda to improve financing for Sustainable Forest Management and to address climate change;
- (ii) strengthen investments in forests for climate change and scale up successful initiatives that could generate significant multiple benefits, including through results-based payments in the context of REDD+; (COFO)

Invited countries to implement the [Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning](#). (CGRFA)

Invited countries to integrate diversity of GRFA into national climate change planning, addressing their potential for adaptation to climate change and for climate change mitigation, including in line with their respective nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans. (CGRFA)

- **Small-scale producers**

Reconfirmed the multi-dimensional function of small-scale fisheries in poverty reduction, food security, nutrition, social cohesion, stability and development, cultural values, income and employment generation and livelihoods. (COFI)

Invited countries to: a) promote investment and specific policies for improving the livelihoods of mountain peoples and increase their resilience; b) engage in or strengthen commitment to the Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Facility; c) strengthen national and local capacities in sustainable mountain development. (COFO)

- **Policy instruments**

Invited countries to:

- (i) improve coordination between policies on forests, agriculture, food, land use and rural development for more effective regulation of land use change; promote integrated land use planning as a strategic framework for balancing land uses at national, subnational and landscape scales;
- (ii) Strengthen tenure rights taking into account the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security ;
- (iii) Use adequate policy instruments, including training and capacity building, and boost investments, including through existing international financial mechanisms to increase sustainable agricultural production and sustainable forest management. (COFO)

Stressed the importance of the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries](#) in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) as a tool for achieving sustainable small-scale fisheries in developing and developed countries. (COFI)

Strongly welcomed the inclusion of the SSF Guidelines in regional and national policies and strategies and related implementation activities, including beyond the fisheries sector. (COFI)

- **Monitoring**

Invited countries to: a) strengthen forest data collection, inter alia, to support monitoring progress towards SDG targets at global, regional and national levels; b) design national level forest related SDG indicators, including by building on information and data generated by the national statistics system and through national and regional criteria and indicators processes, and whenever possible, using or further developing existing criteria and indicators before defining new ones. (COFO)

Requested FAO to continue contributing to the development and use of international targets and indicators related to GRFA, including to the work of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, with a view to ensuring consistency and coherence among relevant fora and processes and avoiding duplication of reporting. (CGRFA)

Recommended that FAO invite countries to report annually on the SDG indicator 2.5.1, starting in February 2017. (CGRFA)

### **C. KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM FAO'S REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

In accordance with the General Rules of the Organization, FAO's Regional Conferences provide a forum for consultation on all matters pertaining to the mandate of the Organization within the region, including any special issues of interest to the Members in the concerned region; formulate regional positions on global policy and regulatory issues within the mandate of the Organization or having implications in respect of the mandate and activities of the Organization, including with a view to promoting regional coherence on global policy and regulatory matters and advise on and identify the special problems of their respective regions and priority areas of work. Regional Conferences meet every second year and report to FAO Conference on policy and regulatory matters. The FAO Regional Conferences met in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016 and discussed issues related to the 2030 Agenda in various ways. Below the extract of each FAO Regional Conference report pertinent to HLPF 2017.

The reports of the Regional Conferences on policy and regulatory matters from which the recommendations below are drawn will be submitted to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session FAO Conference for its review. As the 40th Session of the FAO Conference, to which the reports of the Regional Conferences will be submitted, will be held from 3rd to 8th July 2017; it should be noted that the recommendations below are pending endorsement by the FAO Conference at the time they were submitted to the President of ECOSOC.

1. **34<sup>TH</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup> (Mexico City, Mexico, 29 February – 3 March 2016):**

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<sup>1</sup> Full report available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq088e.pdf>

Acknowledged that, in spite of the great progress made, efforts needed to be intensified to provide development opportunities to Latin American and Caribbean people still suffering from extreme poverty, hunger, obesity and other forms of malnutrition.

Reiterated the usefulness of the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), as well as regional undertakings, such as the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025 initiative and the 2025 Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC FNS Plan), which provided a favourable framework for achieving a region free from hunger and poverty within a generation.

Called on FAO, in cooperation with other international organizations, to promote mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agrifood, fishery and aquaculture products and to facilitate links with consumers.

- **Transforming the Rural Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Called for continued support for the development of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and governance to facilitate the interaction of policies and dialogue among sectors and between governments, civil society and the private sector to achieve social and economic transformation of the rural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, while preserving country leadership and paying particular attention to women, youth and indigenous peoples.

Called for strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation strategies to develop healthy and sustainable agrifood systems and to reduce rural poverty in the most vulnerable countries and regions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Stressed the importance of furthering work on fisheries and aquaculture, with particular emphasis on artisanal fisheries as a differentiated policy, in view of the fact that fishery and aquaculture resources make a major contribution to food and nutrition security by helping to eradicate hunger and poverty.

Highlighted the value of the forestry sector and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on forests, for achieving inclusive and sustainable rural development.

Recommended that countries strengthen family farming and rural development policies based on a territorial agro-ecology approach, placing special emphasis on the interaction of policies for sustainable production and responsible consumption, disaster risk management, agricultural insurance, technical assistance, rural extension and communication, social protection, and farm and non-farm employment in territorial development programmes, in order to help meet the SDGs.

- **Challenges for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the New Framework**

Encouraged continued strengthening of national plant and animal health and food safety systems, and the development of programmes to strengthen national efforts for prevention, control and eradication of invasive species, pests and diseases.

Called for work to continue on the preparation of guidelines to help formulate ecosystem policies to promote all three dimensions of sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – social, economic and environmental – based on countries' practical experience, promoting the development of a regional programme aimed at exchanging experiences and lessons learned by countries in this area.

Took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Agro-ecology in Latin America and the Caribbean

## 2. 29<sup>TH</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Africa<sup>2</sup> (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 4-8 April 2016):

Called attention in particular to the critical issue of youth unemployment, urbanization and migration and the dividend that can accrue to Africa from its large and increasing youthful population;

Identified several challenges for encouraging Africa's youth to effectively participate in agriculture, including (i) difficulties in access to factors of production, in particular land and finance; (ii) insufficient infrastructure to enhance agricultural and rural development; (iii) low profitability in the agricultural sector and (iv) unattractive working conditions;

Acknowledged that the benefits associated with the youth dividend are not automatic, they will require an appropriate enabling environment based on each country's specific situation;

Stressed the importance of a strong evolution of social protection for overall economic transformation and highlighted the need for inclusive growth, including gender and women's empowerment, and the need for strong and equitable value chain development;

Underscored the importance of strengthening synergies between agriculture and non-agricultural sector policies and strategies to reinforce sector wide benefits and overall economic growth;

Noted the continued challenges which will need to be addressed in the context of climate change and the environment, and emphasized the need for appropriate risk management strategies, including to combat drought, water scarcity and wild fires.

- **Public Private Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Growth**

Noted the importance of economies of scale, technology transfer and other possible spill-over effects that are often derived from PPPs;

Recognized that despite its potential benefits, PPPs should not be considered as a panacea, and countries should develop partnerships based on their specific situation;

Underscored the need for the creation of an appropriate enabling environment to attract private sector investment that enhances food security, livelihoods and that enhances youth employment and overall economic growth;

Noted the relevance of producers in the Public Private Producer Partnerships process and acknowledged the importance of inclusive growth and integration of smallholder farmers at all levels of the partnership;

Acknowledged that benefits and risks associated with PPPs should be shared equally among all stakeholders through a transparent governance strategy;

Underlined the importance of having in place effective institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks and appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems;

Noted the prevalence of uncertainty and risks in the agricultural sector and highlighted the importance of appropriate risk management strategies that includes the specific situation of smallholder farmers;

Noted that PPPs should enhance value addition activities, improve product quality, enhance markets, and ensure fair prices and decent income for weaker participants;

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<sup>2</sup> Full report available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq130e.pdf>

Highlighted that agricultural institutions should provide appropriate research and strategies that respond to private sector issues and promotes PPP.

**3. 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific<sup>3</sup> (Putrajaya, Malaysia, 7-11 March 2016):**

Appreciated the progress made in the region in reducing the proportion of those suffering from hunger, but expressed concern that nearly half a billion people remain undernourished, 90 million children remain stunted and obesity is a growing problem in every sub-region;

Emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture to strengthen food security and nutrition;

Noted the need for increased investment in agriculture to support achievement of the SDGs, including from private sector and non-traditional sources;

Encouraged member countries to expand appropriate social protection programmes.

- **Rural poverty and market opportunities**

Highlighted the numerous challenges that prevent smallholders from taking advantage of evolving market opportunities;

Emphasized the critical importance of rural organizations as a means to integrate smallholders into value chains;

Highlighted the importance of public and private sector investment to enable value chains to meet market requirements and pointed to the public goods required to support value chain development;

Drew attention to the market opportunities afforded by heritage products, geographic indication and community-branded products;

Reinforced the need for an enabling environment to facilitate public- private partnerships.

- **Nutrition**

Highlighted the importance of ensuring food availability by promoting growth in food production and trade while giving greater emphasis to food quality and nutrition;

Noted that, despite nutrition being an area of concern and advocacy for more than three decades, progress was lacking, in part because synergies with other sectors had not been fully developed;

Recognized that greater progress could be made if the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition was integrated more fully into the full range of policies and investments related to food, agriculture, trade, prices and incomes, health, and food safety and encouraged member countries to work towards improving multi-sectoral collaboration on nutrition issues through effective national coordinating entities, joint strategies and integrated approaches at both national and local levels;

Urged member countries to incorporate explicit nutrition and food safety goals, objectives, targets and measurable indicators in food and agricultural policies, programmes and investment programmes, with clear baselines and data for monitoring the impacts;

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<sup>3</sup> Full report available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq092e.pdf>



Encouraged governments to mainstream nutrition and food safety in food and agriculture by enhancing institutional and technical skills, forging partnerships, strengthening data collecting and measuring skills, building awareness of healthy dietary habits and strengthening nutrition education;

- **Marine Ecosystems and Blue Growth**

Noted that healthy marine ecosystems are crucial to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and was concerned about the negative effects of environmental changes such as climate, land and water use and pollution;

Noted the critical need for accelerated and concerted actions to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, reduce overexploitation of fish and other aquatic resources, minimize habitat damage, pollution and other factors.

Noted that the potential of fisheries and aquaculture could be significantly enhanced through professionalization of the fisheries and aquaculture workforce making it more inclusive of gender, youth and indigenous peoples;

Recognized the high degree of synergy between the new guiding document for coastal fisheries management in the Pacific - The New Song for Coastal Fisheries: Pathways to Change and FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.

Recognized that the five interlinked strategies of the Blue Growth Initiative, which combine policy and institutional reform with on-the-ground action, offer long-term prospects for driving sustainable resource management of the fishery and aquaculture sectors, allowing economic growth and food security to be reconciled with conservation of aquatic resources;

#### **4. 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe<sup>4</sup> (Antalya, Turkey, 4-6 May 2016):**

Underlined the importance of agriculture, fisheries and forestry and their crucial role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, as well as climate-change adaptation and mitigation, and responsibility of all actors along the food chain, including farmers, retailers and policy-makers.

Highlighted that sustainable land use, protection of biodiversity and education and training are important areas for achieving the SDGs.

Stressed the important role of the region in implementing the SDGs, through research and innovation, exchange of knowledge and experience, and capacity development in the food and agricultural sector.

Urged the involvement and consideration of women and youth in the implementation of the SDGs. Highlighted the importance of tackling food losses and waste as a contribution to sustainable development.

Emphasized trade as an important means to implement the 2030 Agenda. Urged the mobilization of the private sector and civil society in supporting the implementation of the SDGs.

#### **5. 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East<sup>5</sup> (Rome, Italy, 9-13 May 2016):**

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<sup>4</sup> Full report available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq093e.pdf>

Urged countries, with the support of FAO, to expand the use of high-yielding and drought-tolerant varieties of crops, pasture and rangeland species.

Encouraged Member Nations to strengthen support to family farmers, invest in programmes to reduce rural poverty and improve opportunities for market access and livelihoods and to promote natural resource management systems built on participation of smallholders, pastoralists and communities at large.

Encouraged countries to invest in sustainable development of the livestock sector to increase local production.

Urged countries to reinforce, with the support of FAO and partners, the governance of the veterinary services to effectively prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases at national, regional and global levels.

Requested countries to enhance policies in support of emergency and rehabilitation activities in the livestock sector.

Urged countries, with the support of FAO, to enhance capacities and raise awareness on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in line with FAO Conference resolution 4/2015.

- **Fisheries and Aquaculture: Application of FAO's Blue Growth Initiative**

Endorsed the application of the FAO Blue Growth Initiative in the region and its components, including ecosystem services, economic growth, environmental benefits and social development, within the framework of the three Regional Initiatives.

Urged countries to safeguard the interests of small-scale and traditional fishing communities in the face of multinational illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and called on member countries to sign the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) Agreement.

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<sup>5</sup> Full report available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq094e.pdf>

## FAO'S GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE:

### The Governing Bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

**The Governing Bodies of FAO** are the bodies which directly, or indirectly through their parent bodies, contribute within their respective mandates, to (a) the definition of the overall policies and regulatory frameworks of the Organization; (b) the establishment of the Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget and (c) exercise, or contribute to the oversight of the administration of the Organization.

The Governing Bodies comprise the FAO Conference; the FAO Council and the Council Committees: Programme Committee (PC), Finance Committee (FC), Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM); Technical Committees: Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Committee on Forestry (COFO) and Committee on Agriculture (COAG); and the Regional Conferences for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East. The Committee of World Food Security (CFS) is a technical committee, which is not included as a FAO Governing Body due to its ad hoc governance structure, but it reports to the FAO Conference and the FAO Council.

**The FAO Conference** is the Organization's supreme Governing Body and comprises all Members and Associate Members. Representatives of Members, normally at Ministerial level and/or Head of State/Government, meet biennially to review global governance policy issues and international frameworks, as well as to evaluate work carried out and to approve the budget and related programme of work for the next biennium. The Chairperson of the Conference is nominated by the FAO Council, normally on a regional rotation basis, and is endorsed by the Conference at its opening meeting. The Chairperson of the Conference presides over the Conference Session, but is not active in the inter-sessional period. Normally, the Chairperson travels to FAO headquarters in Rome only for the duration of the Conference Session for which he/she has been elected. During the Conference Session, the Chairperson also presides over the General Committee (Bureau) of the Conference, with seven elected members for the duration of the Conference Session.

**The FAO Council** acts as the executive organ of the Conference between sessions responsible for budgetary and programmatic matters, administrative, constitutional and legal matters, as well as the financial management of the Organization. The Council convenes five times during the biennium, while the Council Committees (PC, FC and CCLM) normally meet four times per biennium. Membership of the Council and its Committees is regionally balanced: the Council comprises 49 Members elected for a three-year term of office; the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee have 12 members each and the Chair; the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters has seven Members and the Chair.

Following the FAO Reform process, the role of the **Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC)** was strengthened, as set out in Conference Resolutions adopted in 2009. The ICC now spends six to eight months of the year at FAO headquarters in Rome and is actively involved in Council matters in the inter-sessional period. The role of the ICC foresees an active involvement with Members, notably through regular informal meetings with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Groups with the objective of building consensus on key issues. The Council, and the Conference, also task the ICC to mediate on specific issues as the need arises. The ICC also liaises with the Chairpersons of the Technical Committees in preparation for Council sessions; attends the Regional Conferences and

interacts with the Director-General and Senior Management of the Organization regularly on behalf of the Membership.

### **Inputs from the FAO's Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP)**

Established by the FAO Conference in 1949, the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) is FAO's oldest technical committee. As a global platform and one of FAO's Governing Bodies, and as part of its mandate, the CCP prepares a factual and interpretative survey of the world commodity market situation and outlook and reports and submits recommendations to the FAO Council and Conference on issues arising from its deliberations and those of its Subsidiary Bodies.<sup>6</sup> The Committee normally meets every two years and is open to all Member Nations of FAO. Currently, it has 110 Members, plus observers.

The terms of reference of the CCP include: i) keeping under review commodity problems of an international character affecting production, trade, distribution, consumption and related economic matters; and ii) preparing a factual and interpretative surveys of the world commodity situation that is made available to FAO Members.

Sessions of the CCP include as standard items: Situation and outlook of world agricultural commodity markets (both short-term and medium-term); Policy developments and regulatory matters, including an update on WTO agricultural negotiations and regional trade agreements; International actions on agricultural commodities; and Programme and governance matters.

#### **1. An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level:**

- Leaving no one behind – the cardinal principle of Agenda 2030 – is at the centre of the mandate and work of the CCP. Keeping a constant watch on agricultural commodity developments and the factors affecting commodity production, consumption, trade, stocks and prices, and related economic and policy matters, and producing outlook assessments are essential given their importance to food security, farmers' incomes, and the export earnings and import bills of countries, namely Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (WTO Marrakesh Decision, 1994).
- A total of 793 million people are estimated to be chronically undernourished globally. A large and growing majority of them live in rural areas, many of whom are small-scale and family farmers, women, and landless workers. It is the poorest and most hungry people around the world that are most vulnerable to external factors and shocks, whether these are excessive commodity price volatility, climate change, shifts in trade policies and flows, or other factors that affect their access to adequate food. They mostly depend on markets to sell and buy their produce.
- From a global perspective, food commodity markets are expected to remain generally stable and well balanced in 2016/17 amid large export availabilities and relatively low and stable international

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<sup>6</sup> Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal (CSSD); Intergovernmental Group on Rice; Intergovernmental Group on Grains; Intergovernmental Group on Citrus Fruit; Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres; Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats; Intergovernmental Group on Bananas and on Tropical Fruits; Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres; Intergovernmental Group on Tea; and Intergovernmental Group on Meat and Dairy Products.

prices<sup>7</sup>. World cereal production in 2016 is estimated to increase by 66 million tonnes (or 2.6 percent) from 2015 to reach 2 600 million tonnes<sup>8</sup>: wheat (758 million tonnes), coarse grains (1 344 million tonnes), and rice (498 million tonnes). World cereal utilization in 2016/17 is forecast at 2 578 million tonnes (50 million tonnes more than 2015/16), while trade in cereals is forecast at 393 million tonnes (1.8 million tonnes below the 2015/16 level). Global stocks of cereals at the close of crop seasons in 2017 are projected at 678 million tonnes (16.8 million tonnes higher than the previous year).

- While global food supply conditions are robust, access to food has been dramatically affected in several areas. A total of 37 countries, including 28 in Africa, are estimated to be in need of external assistance for food, mainly as a result of conflicts, protracted crises and weather-related shocks<sup>3</sup>. As of March 2017, four countries are affected by, or at risk of, famine: Nigeria (northeastern region), Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. Famine was officially declared in South Sudan in February 2017. Early warning systems and regular reports on food security situation and food crises are critical for ensuring that no one is left behind; however, **early warnings must be followed by early actions** to reduce disaster losses and the costs of emergency response. It is essential to have an early warning-early action system in place to translate alerts into anticipated actions.
- Over the next 10 years (2016-2025), the growth of **demand for food** is expected to slow progressively, as global population growth is declining and income growth in emerging economies is projected to be weaker. The demand for meat, fish, and dairy products is projected to grow relatively stronger compared to staple foods. For **production**, the increased demand for food is projected to be largely met through productivity gains, with modest expansion in crop and livestock herds. For instance, yield improvements are expected to account for 80 percent of the increase in crop output. With **supply and demand** growth broadly matched, real food commodity **prices** are projected to remain relatively flat. Livestock prices are projected to rise relative to crop prices, and the prices of coarse grains and oilseeds are projected to rise relative to those of food staples.
- The bulk of **food consumption growth** over the next decade is seen originating in the developing countries. Consumption growth will originate mainly in Asia and Africa. Fast developing Asian economies are expected to generate the largest share of additional consumption, while high population growth in Africa should drive significant increases in total food consumption, despite per capita consumption remaining low, compared to the rest of the world.
- **Global trade** in food products is expected to continue to expand over the next decade, albeit at a slower rate. More food than ever is expected to be internationally traded in 2025, meaning more people will depend on well-functioning food commodity markets. Trade will influence the extent and nature of food security across all regions of the globe. In 2025, about 25 percent of the world's population are projected to obtain at least one quarter of their cereal food needs from imports.

## 2. The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges:

- The CCP held its last session in October 2016. At this occasion, the Committee underlined the importance of **commodity market monitoring** for global food security, especially for better market

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<sup>7</sup> Food Outlook, October 2016 (FAO): <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6198e.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Crop Prospects and Food Situation No. 1, March 2017 (FAO): <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6903e.pdf>

transparency and for informed policy decisions. In this regard, the Committee called on governments and other stakeholders to increase their efforts to improve the monitoring and assessment of supply and demand of food and agricultural commodities, and to make the results publicly available in a timely manner to **enhance market transparency and to facilitate coordinated action**.

- Of particular relevance to SDG target 2.b, the Committee reflected on the persistent concerns over **food price volatility** despite relatively stable food market conditions in recent years, and encouraged governments to carefully consider the consequences of any action that could disrupt commodity markets and trade flows and propel price volatility. Ensuring a proper functioning of global food commodity markets and limiting extreme food price volatility will require renewed international efforts to increase coordination among countries<sup>9</sup> in terms of policy interventions and data availability to enhance market transparency and functioning – necessary conditions to further stabilize markets both domestically and globally. Previously (in 2012), the CCP underlined the need for strengthened assistance to member countries in both policy and programmatic actions to effectively mitigate the negative effects of high and excessively volatile food prices on vulnerable populations.
- There is growing evidence that **climate change** will have marked impacts on food and agricultural production. Changes in production will have effects on agricultural trade, international commodity prices and eventually on food security. In this regard, the Committee called on further analysis on the interfaces between climate change, trade, commodity markets and food security, and encouraged collaboration among countries and among international organizations to address the knowledge gaps and the need for more evidence-based and quantitative impact assessments of climate change on commodity trade at the country level.
- The relationship between **trade and food security and nutrition** is attracting increased attention, on both the trade and the development agendas. The eradication of global hunger by 2030 is a key goal in the new 2030 Agenda – and **trade is one of the means of implementation to achieve the SDGs**. As patterns of consumption and production continue to evolve, global trade in agricultural products is expected to continue to expand over the coming decade, and to influence the extent and nature of food security and nutrition across all regions. The task is how to turn this challenge into an opportunity to ensure that the expansion of agricultural trade leads to positive food security and nutrition outcomes for all. In this regard, in 2016, **the CCP**: i) underlined the need to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of developing countries to better undertake analysis of the implications and opportunities of trade and related policies for food security and nutrition; ii) recommended that assistance be provided to developing countries to facilitate policy dialogue for improving alignment and coherence between agricultural development strategies and trade-related frameworks and policies; and iii) requested that further assistance be provided to developing countries to engage in regional and multilateral trade and trade-related processes, to ensure that these processes are coherent with, and supportive of, countries' pursuit of food security objectives and the WTO multilateral process.
- Another area that required proper attention is related to the role of **smallholder integration into markets** in eradicating poverty and food insecurity. In previous sessions, the CCP underlined that

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<sup>9</sup> Coordination among countries in intergovernmental settings, including WTO, FAO Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), the G20 Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), etc.

priority should be given to support smallholder integration into markets. Increasing the productivity of smallholder and family farmers is key to ensuring inclusive and broad agricultural transformation; however, efforts to achieve this will have limited success if farmers' linkages to markets are not strengthened simultaneously. The CCP had underscored the importance of analysis and research to improve the understanding of patterns of smallholder market participation and their determinants. This is essential particularly for appropriate policy interventions.

### **3. Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity:**

The CCP reviews and discusses agricultural commodity market situation and outlook assessments, medium-term commodity projections and also policy developments related to those markets, and makes recommendations on a number of pertinent issues. The points listed below on the lessons learned draw on a number of CCP sessions<sup>10</sup>.

- Importance of timely market information, monitoring and analysis for promoting transparency and the efficient functioning of commodity markets and for informed policy formulation and decisions.
- There is critical need for up-to-date and credible information on commodity markets, and especially on prices at all levels (global, regional and local) to mitigate potential adverse impacts on food security and to ensure that farmers receive the best price for their produce.
- Importance of governments and other stakeholders to increase their efforts to improve the monitoring and assessment of supply and demand of food and agricultural commodities and make the results publicly available in a timely manner, so as to improve market transparency and ensure timely and coordinated action.
- Increased policy coordination among countries and enhanced market transparency could contribute to stabilizing markets both domestically and globally.
- Ensuring that no one is left behind, thus, calls for the integration of smallholders, family farmers and other vulnerable producers into markets and value chains.
- Increased investment in agriculture, in particular towards smallholder producers, is needed to increase productivity and strengthen resilience to shocks. It is also critically important for this investment to be responsible in order to be sustainable and benefit those that need it most. Thus, there is a need for more and better agricultural investment.
- Improved market access for commodities from developing countries as a way to enhance their food security and income generating objectives is essential.
- Importance of an open, rules-based and fair international trading system, the removal of trade barriers and distortions and the conclusion of an ambitious and balanced WTO trade agreement for agricultural development and food security.
- On climate change, international and multi-stakeholder cooperation to strengthen institutional frameworks and processes and to develop technical capacity is important to promote sustainable agriculture and integrated cross-sectoral approaches to climate change, including addressing the adaptation needs and mitigation potential of agriculture as identified in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement on climate change (December 2015).

### **4. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity:**

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<sup>10</sup> All the reports can be accessed at the Committee's webpages at this link:  
<http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsbhome/ccp/en/>



- The issues listed under item 2 above are important elements for the realisation of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity. They need attention in order not to hinder progress towards the achievement of these objectives.
- A number of items discussed during the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the CCP (4-6 October 2016) – such as *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) 2015–16*<sup>11</sup> and FAO’s Climate Change Strategy<sup>12</sup> – are of relevance to the 2030 Agenda or the SDGs. They highlighted the relevance of the work of the CCP work to the new global framework. Furthermore, and as in each biennial session, the Committee discussed the commodity market situation and its outlook, both in the short and medium terms, highlighting the major emerging issues in commodity markets and agricultural trade.
- The CCP Members also reviewed major recent global developments and trends and their implications for FAO’s work in trade and markets. These included the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs; Market transparency and stability; Global and regional trade agreements; Climate change; Value chain development and trade; and Investment. In the document reviewed by the Members, it was stressed that Agenda 2030 represents a shift of paradigm in the world’s vision, approach and ambition to tackle poverty and hunger, promote sustainable use of natural resources and address climate change, recognizing that issues concerning food, nutrition, livelihoods and the management of natural resources cannot be addressed separately. The indivisible, interlinked and universal nature of the SDGs thus call for a country-owned, yet mutually accountable reporting and monitoring framework grounded in all 230 global indicators that culminates in the High-level Political Forum.
- The fact that there are trade-related targets under a number of goals (SDGs 2, 8, 10, 14 and 17) provides scope for strengthening the role of trade in addressing sustainable development and food security and nutrition. Ultimately, the capacity to realize the transformative potential of the SDGs also depends on delivering on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and on SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development). The new vision puts trade at the core of international cooperation, highlighting the importance of linking opportunities made possible by aid relations with those formulated through trade relations, and recognizing that trade and related policies can play a major role in creating the enabling conditions for structural transformation.

##### **5. Areas where political guidance by the High-Level Political Forum is required:**

- The CCP Bureau is aware of the preparatory deliberations for the 2017 HLPF session, and is especially keen to see some of the SDGs closest to the CCP mandate featuring as this year’s focus Goals, particularly SDG1 and SDG2. Granted that not only are all SDGs linked with one another but are deliberately interconnected to form an integral agenda, a particular focus on SDG 2, for

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<sup>11</sup> *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) 2015-16*, the latest edition of the flagship report of the CCP, features a chapter on linking trade and food security to the 2030 Agenda. Though the link between trade and food security itself is not explicitly referenced in the SDG framework, the report reflects on the ways trade has been identified as an enabler in the SDGs’ means of implementation and the FfD outcomes and makes particular reference to SDG targets 2.b, 2.c, 8.a, 10.a, 14.6, 17.10, 17.11 and 17.12.

<sup>12</sup> The item on FAO’s Climate Change Strategy recognizes strong linkages between the SDGs, the global climate agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as integral components of a single 2030 Agenda.

instance, would benefit from a more thorough examination of the linkages between trade and food security.

- For instance, the CCP Bureau is currently discussing the organization of an event on trade and food security and nutrition, emphasizing the role of trade in achieving Agenda 2030.
- The CCP would welcome any further suggestions by the HLPF on priority areas for future work with a view to making the CCP more pertinent to the global follow-up and review process. This could include the link between trade and food security and nutrition.

#### **6. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication:**

- The poorest and most hungry people around the world are also the most vulnerable to external factors and shocks. Eradicating poverty and achieving prosperity thus calls for the integration of smallholders and family farmers into markets and value chains. In this respect, the Committee has issued numerous policy recommendations to the FAO Council and Conference over the years, aiming to accelerate progress for those at risk of being left behind. For instance, the Committee has recognized the importance of improved market access to commodities from developing countries as a way to enhance food security and income generating objectives of these countries.
- At its latest Session, the Committee recommended that assistance be provided to developing countries to facilitate policy dialogue for improving alignment and coherence between agricultural development strategies and trade-related frameworks and policies.
- Recognizing the need to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of developing countries to better undertake analysis of the implications and opportunities of trade and its related policies for food security and nutrition, the Committee also requested that further assistance be provided to developing countries to engage in regional and multilateral trade and trade-related processes, to ensure that these processes are coherent with, and supportive of, countries' pursuit of food security objectives and the WTO multilateral process.
- The Committee has also recognized that increased coordination among countries<sup>13</sup> and enhanced market transparency could help stabilize markets both domestically and globally. Moreover, it has stressed the need for more timely and reliable information on commodity market, as well as improved food security and vulnerability analysis as a measure to enhance market transparency and reduce price volatility.
- In earlier sessions, the CCP had stressed the high importance of a multilateral trade agreement under WTO for its potential contribution to creating an enabling environment for agricultural development and food security and to responding to high and volatile food prices. It has underlined the importance of urgent and successful conclusion of the Doha Round, while also recognizing the role of various international organizations in delivering technical assistance programmes and in conducting studies on markets and trade policy issues and implications for food security.

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<sup>13</sup> Coordination among countries in intergovernmental settings, including WTO, FAO Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), the G20 Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), etc.

- The CCP reports available on the Committee’s webpages comprise the main repository of the Committee’s policy recommendations. All reports of the CCP sessions can be accessed at this link: <http://www.fao.org/ccp/reports/en/>

## ANNEX 3

### **Inputs from the FAO’s Committee on Fisheries (COFI)**

#### **An assessment of the situation regarding “*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*”.**

The two main functions of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) are to review the programmes of work of FAO in the field of fisheries and aquaculture and their implementation, and to conduct periodic reviews of global issues in the field of fisheries and aquaculture with a view to develop concerted action by nations, inter-governmental bodies and civil society. COFI is also used as a forum in which global agreements and non-binding instruments are negotiated to address identified fisheries and aquaculture issues. COFI reviews and decides on the recommendations of its two COFI Sub-Committees where government representatives and concerned stakeholders discuss matters on fish trade and aquaculture development, respectively. At the 32nd Session of COFI, held from 11 to 15 July 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was discussed with increasing interest by all delegates. At this session COFI also reiterated its support for the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) as a means to focus the work of FAO on fisheries and aquaculture in support of food security and nutrition, poverty reduction, sustainable management of living aquatic resources, and resilience, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

FAO’s BGI aims to maximize the economic returns of the sustainable use of aquatic resources while also providing social benefits while maintaining or improving ecosystems and their services. BGI’s theory of change has the objective of transitioning from business as usual to a more sustainable fisheries and aquaculture sector through transformational interventions that consider the three pillars of sustainable development. BGI will enhance the impact of FAO’s mandate because it focuses not just on the sustainable production of aquatic resources but also on reducing losses and waste, using energy wisely, providing decent work and fostering financial and technical innovation across the value chain, thus providing new investment opportunities in the sector. Blue Growth and the Blue Economy offer an alternative pathway for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developing Countries (LDCs) to generate greater benefits including decent work and incomes from the sustainable use of their aquatic resources.

Article 6.18 of the General Principles of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code), prescribes that “recognizing the important contribution of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security, States should appropriately protect the rights of fishers and fish workers, particularly those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to a secure and just livelihood, as well as preferential access, where appropriate, to traditional fishing grounds and resources in the waters under their national jurisdiction”<sup>14</sup>.

Recognizing their significance in eradicating poverty, small-scale fisheries (SSF) have been one of the stand-alone Agenda items of COFI since the 25<sup>th</sup> Session, in 2003. Following the recommendation of the

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<sup>14</sup> FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, FAO, 1995.

29<sup>th</sup> Session of COFI, in 2011, FAO facilitated the development of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)<sup>15</sup>, which were adopted at the 31<sup>st</sup> session, in June 2014, as a complement to the Code. In its 32<sup>nd</sup> session, the Committee welcomed the development of the FAO SSF Umbrella Assistance Programme and agreed on the need for a complementary mechanism in the form of an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) to be developed, with the full and effective participation of all regions and in consultation with all small-scale fisheries stakeholders.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing undermines national, regional and international efforts to sustainably manage fisheries. IUU fishing is estimated to account for up to 23.5 billion US dollars-worth of fish annually worldwide, which is equivalent of up to 20 percent of all of the wild marine fish caught globally. The impacts of IUU fishing are not evenly distributed; developing countries are most at risk. IUU fishing threatens food security and sustainable livelihoods of people in many parts of the world. Addressing IUU fishing is critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, in SDG 14 but also other SDGs including SDGs 1 and 2.

The 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) was adopted by COFI with the explicit intent to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing. The PSMA entered into force on 5 June 2016. Today there are more than 40 Parties to the Agreement, including the European Union<sup>16</sup>. At its 32<sup>nd</sup> session COFI endorsed the development of a FAO Global Umbrella Programme to Support the Implementation of PSMA and Related Instruments to Combat IUU Fishing. This five-year programme aims to enhance the capacity of developing countries in combatting IUU fishing, by strengthening their policy, legal and operational frameworks. This body of work supports achievement of SDG 14 target 14.4 and 14.c.

### **1. The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges:**

The Committee highlighted the importance of the ongoing processes related to Agenda 2030 on SDGs and took note of the upcoming UN Oceans Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14 to be held in New York in June 2017. The Committee encouraged FAO to continue to support the preparatory process and also to support Members in the preparation of national reports on the relevant SDG targets - FAO is the proposed custodian for a number of SDG14 target indicators, including 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1, and 14.b.1. FAO was actively engaged in the Oceans Conference, including the processes to identify gaps as well as the development of partnerships to achieve implementation of SDG 14 targets.

The Code sets out principles and international standards of behavior to manage fisheries and aquaculture sustainably. Since its adoption in 1995, a questionnaire has been sent out to the members and observers of COFI (including IGOs, INGOs, RFBs and RFMOs) to monitor its implementation and that of related instruments. Through this biannual survey it is possible to monitor gaps and challenges and capacity development needs encountered by Member States. In 2016, COFI agreed that responses to the questionnaire could be used to monitor a number of indicators under SDG 14. Members and observers of the Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and Aquaculture also regularly respond to specific questionnaire surveys managed by the FAO Secretariat.

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) report, published every two years, provides policy-makers, civil society and those whose livelihoods depend on the sector a comprehensive, objective and global view of capture fisheries and aquaculture, including associated policy issues. After reviewing the 2016 SOFIA, the committee expressed concern about the state of fish stocks globally, noting that the proportion of overfished stocks had increased. The threat of IUU fishing to the

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<sup>15</sup> Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, FAO, 2015

<sup>16</sup> 42 Parties as of 24 February 2017

sustainability of marine resources was highlighted. IUU fishing can lead to the collapse of local fisheries, with SSF in developing countries, in particular SIDS, proving particularly vulnerable with regard to the fisheries sector.

## **2. Valuable lessons learned on ensuring effective measure to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity:**

The BGI aims to create an enabling environment for people involved in fisheries to act not only as resource users, but also to play an active role in protecting and safeguarding these natural resources for the benefit of future generations through improved and holistic governance. This approach has already been put into action, such as in Indonesia where a Master Plan for Economic Development based on the Blue Growth concepts has been adopted. The BGI promotes, among other, the following principles and good practices:

- Aquaculture – promote policies and good practices for farming of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants in a responsible and sustainable manner
- Capture fisheries – support implementation of the Code and related instruments to restore fish stocks, combat IUU and promote good fish production practices and growth in a sustainable manner
- Seafood systems – promote efficient seafood value chains and improved livelihoods
- Eco-system services – Promote regulatory regimes and approaches to restore vital coastal and riparian habitats, biodiversity and eco-system services (incl. carbon capture, storm and wave defenses, tourism etc.)

The SSF Guidelines, the result of a long and participatory development process, present an agreed international consensus and guidance in relation to small-scale fisheries development and governance. Building on the outcomes of relevant previous conferences and consultations<sup>17</sup> and on the practical experience of the over 4,000 stakeholders from over 120 countries directly involved in the development process, the SSF Guidelines place emphasis on the needs of developing countries and are for the benefit of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Based on a human-rights approach the SSF Guidelines promote, among other, the following principles and good practices:

- Formal integration of small-scale fisheries into rural development policies.
- Commitment to transparency and accountability as well as holistic, integrated and adaptive management and development approaches that promote and balance social economic and environmental sustainability.
- Adoption of inclusive and participatory approaches, promotion of cross-sectoral linkages and fostering of an environment that promotes collaboration and conflict resolution mechanisms among stakeholders.
- Promotion of gender equality, integration of gender concerns and perspectives and empowerment of women.
- Equal consideration of environmental, resource and community rights and sustainability, and promotion of co-management and community-based management arrangements, including for marine reserves and protection areas that are informed by the precautionary approach.
- Use of a wide range of information for decision-making, including bio-ecological, social and economic data, from scientific and local and traditional sources.

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<sup>17</sup> E.g., Good Practices in the Governance of Small-scale Fisheries: Sharing of Experiences and Lessons Learned in Responsible Fisheries for Social and Economic Development (COFI/2011/8), consultations reports available at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en>

- Respect of cultures, existing forms of organization, traditions, local norms and practices, as well as customary or otherwise preferential access to fishery resources, land and territories, by small-scale fishing communities, including indigenous peoples.
- Recognition of the need for capacity development in all areas and at all levels, and support to awareness-raising, empowerment and cohesion.
- Assurance that disaster risk reduction/management and climate change adaptation policies and interventions respond to the specific needs of small-scale fisheries, recognizing that special considerations must be given to fishing communities living on small islands which are particularly vulnerable to disasters and climate change.

### **3. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of this principle:**

The factors affecting SSF, listed above in item 2, are still emerging issues, which need to be tackled. The empowerment of small-scale fishers/fisher folk and their representatives in the context of a human rights based approach is a major emerging issue. The topics addressed in the SSF Guidelines go beyond traditional fisheries issues. They consider for example gender, social development and policy coherence. They also put an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people, including indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities who are often particularly affected by the lack of access to aquatic resources and markets, as called for under SDG target 14.b. These people are often not aware of their rights, not properly organized and not sufficiently connected to relevant decision-making processes at national, regional and international levels, to ensure that they are not left behind.

Aquaculture development has made significant contributions to the eradication of poverty in many rural communities. However, the rate of aquaculture production growth has been slowing in recent years for a variety of reasons, including on the demand side saturation of markets and on the supply side, lack of sites, environmental concerns, lack of technical capacity and investment. While FAO/OECD project that aquaculture production will continue to grow over the next decade or so, growth is likely to be poorest in areas where it is needed most, such as sub-Saharan Africa where per capita fish supplies are already the lowest of any region in the world (SOFIA 2016).

The threats of IUU fishing may affect the realization of this principle. As already mentioned in the section of assessment, IUU fishing heavily undermines national, regional and international efforts to sustainably manage fisheries and hinders eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world, particularly in developing countries. It can also exacerbate related social issues such as involuntary servitude both on vessels and in processing facilities. The effective implementation of the PSMA ultimately contributes to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystem as well as protects the livelihoods of legitimate fishers. The inception meeting of the PSMA, where all Contracting Parties (CPs) and potential CPs will get together to discuss necessary technical and administrative rules and procedures, is scheduled to be held in May 2017, which shows the PSMA is ready for implementation.

Fish loss and waste reduction remain important issues to improve food security and nutrition and promote prosperity through indirect contributions to income generation and equitable development. But in order to address their multifaceted problems and prevent disjointed interventions, a systematic appraisal within any given context is required focusing on the efficiency of the entire post-harvest system. This will then provide reliable information to make cases for evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes.

A variety of trade policy tools, including tariffs and subsidies, and non-tariff measures, such as food safety and sustainability standards, have a significant influence in shaping fisheries production and trade, particularly in accessing markets in developed countries. Many of these measures are in place for

legitimate reasons, but in practice their implementation can lead to technical or financial obstacles, as well as restrictions to market access. These include private standards, traceability requirements, tariff escalation, diverse certification compliance, and technical and sanitary measures. These challenges are especially true for developing countries when considering capacity constraints in implementation of appropriate measures but also in questioning possible protectionism measures.

Finally, climate change may add significant obstacles to the achievement of the principles of poverty eradication in relation to fisheries and other coastal communities. These obstacles include changes in the productivity, seasonality and distribution of fish stocks, increases in the intensity and frequency of storms, flooding and other disasters associated with rising sea levels. FAO works with member countries to develop adaptation toolboxes that facilitate the evolution of management and institutional frameworks, promoting livelihood adaptations, and promoting resilience and risk management principles.

#### **4. Areas where political guidance by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is required:**

COFI looks forward to the SDG 14 Oceans Conference and to guidance from the HLPF provided on the outcomes, particularly with respect to achievement of SDG 14 targets that promote ending hunger, enhancing food security, reducing poverty, and sustainably developing fishery resources. Guidance regarding the consolidation of the Global Partnership and the effective mobilization of urgently needed resources for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 is also sought. COFI would welcome strong commitments to effective intergovernmental (and UN – inter-agency) collaboration and strengthening of means of implementation to support capacity development efforts promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development processes and associated institutions. We are looking forward to guidance on concrete steps for fisheries stakeholders worldwide to join processes following the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) for Financing of Development, and the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change through Nationally Determined Contributions. FAO's BGI provides a strategic framework to facilitate follow-up to Agenda 2030, including the AAAA, in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Further, HLPF may provide guidance on commitments and processes that effectively expedite the successful implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14, at the same time, facilitate the consideration and integration of needs and opportunities relevant to local communities depending on fishing, fish farming and fish processing. Many fish producers and fish workers will benefit from their effective inclusion and participation, as well as the integration of their interests and concerns, in processes aiming at the implementation of the above-mentioned SDGs. The HLPF may also ensure effective between SDG 13 (Climate Action) and other SDGs which rely on a benign climate to ensure adequate and sufficient global development.

#### **5. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress for poor and most vulnerable segments of the society:**

In order to accelerate the progress for the poor and most vulnerable segments of the society, a holistic approach is needed, making sure that all aspects of the sector are taken into consideration. A large variety of instruments have been negotiated through the Committee on Fisheries and its Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and Aquaculture over the years with the aim at achieving sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and associated fish supply chains in order to ensure better livelihoods for all

involved within the sector. Some of the most recent, which have been a particular focus of the Committee in recent years, are as following:

- The BGI, with guiding principles and four streams of work, provides a clear framework to focus work on fisheries and aquaculture in support of food security and nutrition, poverty reduction, sustainable management of living aquatic resources and resilience in the context of the SDGs.
- PSMA - A binding agreement which came into force on the 5 June 2016. The main purpose of the Agreement is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the implementation of robust port State measures.
- SSF Guidelines - A policy which provides an important way to ensure progress is accelerated for the most vulnerable segments of the society, such as the small-scale fishers and fish workers. It is a powerful tool at country and regional level to revise/strengthen small-scale fisheries governance and development models in a transparent and participatory manner.
- Catch Documentation Schemes and Traceability mechanisms.

It is noted that COFI has always paid particular attention to Article 5 of the Code, which recalls the Special Requirements of Developing Countries:

*5.1 The capacity of developing countries to implement the recommendations of this Code should be duly taken into account.*

*5.2 In order to achieve the objectives of this Code and to support its effective implementation, countries, relevant international organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental, and financial institutions should give full recognition to the special circumstances and requirements of developing countries, including in particular the least-developed among them, and small island developing countries. States, relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and financial institutions should work for the adoption of measures to address the needs of developing countries, especially in the areas of financial and technical assistance, technology transfer, training and scientific cooperation and in enhancing their ability to develop their own fisheries, as well as to participate in high seas fisheries, including access to such fisheries.*

We feel this fundamental consideration should continue to guide COFI in its work and hope that HLPF would recognize and support this approach for implementation of Agenda 2030 in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.



### Inputs from the FAO's Committee on Committee on Forestry

#### **Mandate and Work of the Committee on Forestry**

The Committee on Forestry (COFO) is the highest FAO Forestry statutory body, open to all FAO Member Nations. Various stakeholders, including international organizations and non-governmental partners participate in COFO. The Committee's tasks include:

- a) periodic reviews of forestry problems of an international character and appraise such problems with a view to concerted action which could be undertaken by Member Nations and the Organization in order to resolve such problems;
- b) reviewing the programmes of work of the Organization in the field of forestry and their implementation;
- c) advising to the Director-General on the future programmes of work of the Organization in the field of forestry and on their implementation;
- d) reviewing of specific matters relating to forestry referred to the Committee by the Council or the Director-General, or placed by the Committee on its agenda at the request of a Member Nation in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, and make recommendations as may be appropriate;
- e) reporting to the Council and Conference and tender advice to the Director-General, as appropriate, on matters considered by the Committee.

COFO had its 23<sup>rd</sup> Session on 18-22 July 2016 and reviewed in particular the 2030 Agenda and the new climate change agreement, as well as forests' and sustainable forest management's contribution to them. The Committee paid due attention to how forests' full potentials, including the contributions to livelihoods, food security, jobs, gender equality and many others, could best be unlocked. It placed great importance on advising members and FAO on appropriate actions in implementing the SDGs and requested the Organization to support member Nations on multiple ways, noting that forests are directly relevant for several of the SDGs and provide indirect contributions to practically all of them.

#### **7. An assessment of the situation regarding *"Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world"***

It may be worthwhile to recall from COFO's 2016 submission that forest cover about 4 billion ha or just under 31% of the globe's land area, more or less the same size of land used by agriculture. Forests are a home and shelter for millions and millions of people, including several indigenous and local communities, often most in need and for whom forests are the only source of subsistence. Forests and trees outside forests contribute to food security, nutrition and livelihoods in several ways, including as a direct source of food, fuel, employment and cash income. They provide fundamental ecosystem services, including: maintaining or restoring soil fertility; protecting watersheds and water courses; conserving biodiversity; and helping mitigate climate change.

Forests provide multiple contributions to eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity. The 2014 edition of the State of the World's Forests (SOFO, the major analytical input to COFO), reviewed carefully forests' socioeconomic contributions, while the 2016 edition focused on the intricate relationships between forests and agriculture and the related land use opportunities and challenges.

SOFO 2014 estimated that while the formal forest sector provides jobs for 13.2 million people worldwide, an additional 41 million are employed in the informal sector. SOFO also estimated that about 840 million people, i.e. 13% of the total population is engaged in woodfuel and charcoal collection, mostly for own use. Forests contribute to poverty elimination and livelihoods through providing an estimated income of around US\$125 billion from the informal production of forest products alone.

Wood provides 6% of the world's total primary energy supply, but this share is way higher in certain regions, being 13% in Latin America and 27% in Africa, where in some countries wood energy may reach as high as 90% of the total primary energy supply. Regarding the use of wood energy, SOFO estimated that about 2.4 billion people, or one-third of all households rely on woodfuel for cooking. Woodfuel also makes a major contribution to providing safe drinking water for at least about 800 million people worldwide.

Food from forests constitutes to food supply with around 3.6 million tons of animal protein each year, but forests provide important, micronutrient rich forest foods such as wild meat, fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds which also work as a key dietary supplements. In addition, different studies suggest that up to 80% of the world's population may be dependent on traditional remedies for health care.

Forests provide shelter and material for housing for large portions of the populations, about 18% or 1.3 billion people noting that this number probably is a very conservative estimate.

SOFO 2016 revealed that while agriculture and forestry are often perceived as conflicting land uses, with agriculture being the direct driver for an estimated 80 percent of global deforestation, this period may be over now. 23 countries have shown over the past 25 years that increasing agricultural production and improving food security does not have to come at the expense of forests. Food security can be achieved through agricultural intensification and other measures such as social protection, rather than through expansion of agricultural areas.

Common factors contributing to increasing both food security and forest area include:

- favorable economic conditions;
- policies that consider the agriculture and forest sectors in a balanced way and recognize the full economic, social and environmental benefits of forests;
- a market-oriented agricultural policy that includes social and environmental safeguards;
- policy instruments that promote increased agricultural productivity and sustainable forest management;
- an effective legal and institutional framework;
- adequate funding for implementation;
- devolving forest management rights to local communities; and
- promotion of integrated land use.

To clarify relationships between forests and the various SDGs COFO will continue its deliberations on the subject. To facilitate this the 2018 edition of SOFO will provide a complete analysis on forests' contribution to the individual SDGs and associated targets, including by quantifying the contributions and describing also data gaps. SOFO will also demonstrate the comparative advantages of pursuing the achievement of SDGs through forestry, and provide a number of case examples from countries around the globe that have taken a comprehensive, cross-sectoral and integrated approach to sustainable development and taken measures to mainstream forests into their development policies and programmes. On this basis, SOFO will also identify possible pathways for the future.

## **8. The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges:**

Enhancing forests' contributions to the SDGs would require several measures, many of them in coordination also with other sectors. Within forestry, efforts are needed to enhance the multiple contributions of forests to the different SDGs. This will require a lasting balance between provision of goods and services and the protection of the natural resource base, which in case of forestry means the promotion of sustainable forest management.

Achieving the closely inter-dependent SDGs will require looking at sustainability issues within and across agriculture, forestry and fisheries in an integrated way, taking trade-offs and synergies across sectors and sustainability dimensions into account. New governance arrangements will be required to promote and facilitate actions that are coherent and effective in inducing changes in practices. This includes finding new ways of dialogue and collaboration across sectors and with different stakeholders, and strengthening related institutional mechanisms and capacities.

To enhance consistency and effectiveness of actions by agriculture, forestry and fisheries in addressing different national priorities and international commitments, more dialogue on strategy development and better coordination of planning will be needed. For this, SDGs can act as an overarching umbrella, under which actions by different sectors and stakeholders from different levels can be aligned. Any action on addressing hunger or poverty is likely to have effects on the conservation and use of natural resources, and vice versa, reflecting the strong interlinkages of the SDGs. This implies that operational ways need to be found to identify and address sustainability tradeoffs and synergies. The implications of actions related to sustainable use and conservation need to be considered across the different sectors.

COFO, together with other Technical Committees of the Organization, considered "Building a common vision for sustainable food and agriculture" as a broad strategy for contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, that outlined 5 principles:

1. Improving efficiency in the use of resources is crucial to sustainable agriculture
2. Sustainability requires direct action to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources
3. Agriculture that fails to protect and improve rural livelihoods, equity and social well-being is unsustainable
4. Enhanced resilience of people, communities and ecosystems is key to sustainable agriculture
5. Sustainable food and agriculture requires responsible and effective governance mechanisms

As the outcome of the deliberations COFO requested FAO to support countries, *inter alia*, in:

- integrating sustainable forest management into national development programmes and action plans, as well as into regional forest-related coordination;
- identifying new opportunities for financing sustainable development, with integrated approaches between forestry, agriculture, livestock, in line with the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
- promoting the multi-functional role of forests through valuation of ecosystem services and increased private sector involvement in sustainable forest management.

## **9. Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity**

COFO continued to pay special attention to the need for integrated solutions and cross sectoral approaches. Based on the experiences the Committee requested FAO to strengthen its work on forests

in the implementation of the Organization's Strategic Objectives, in particular on forests' fundamental role for food security and nutrition, sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable agriculture, improved livelihoods and increased resilience of rural and urban communities, as well as work on integrated approaches to land use.

In recognizing the role and relevance of the integrated approaches COFO also requested FAO to support improved policies and practices to address the drivers of deforestation and conflicts over land use; capitalize on the full range of economic, social and environmental benefits of integrating forests and agriculture; and maintain multiple forest services in the landscape context.

Noting the role of forests in ensuring food security, COFO stressed the need for countries to mainstream the important role of forests and trees outside forests for food security and nutrition in policies and programmes and across all four dimensions of food security. Countries were also invited to take measures to promote the sustainable production of wood-fuel, as well as the efficient and safe use of wood-fuel for cooking and water sterilization, and to provide secure tenure rights, including to local communities to enable sustainable management of forest resources for increased contribution to food security and nutrition, in accordance with national legislation.

To help countries to be able to do so FAO should support forest tenure reforms which take into account food security and nutrition, and the formulation of forest-related policies that integrate food security and nutrition objectives. The capacity of government institutions and of local communities should also be strengthened to integrate food security and nutrition objectives into their sustainable forest management practices.

It is also of utmost importance to collect more detailed information about the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to food security and nutrition, and to explore opportunities for increasing this contribution, including through the use of traditional knowledge. The role of sound information in general was highly recognized as the basis for any informed policy decision and countries were invited to strengthen forest data collection, inter alia, to support monitoring progress towards SDG targets at global, regional and national levels.

COFO stressed FAO's role in collecting relevant information through the Global Forest Resources Assessments that should be responsive to the needs of SDGs monitoring, as well as to the reporting needs of other global forests processes, aiming at the production and dissemination of robust forest physical and socioeconomic information. FAO should also support countries through exploring new and innovative tools and techniques to further improve support to Members in collecting, analyzing and reporting data on forest and related aspects and promoting global and regional knowledge sharing. FAO's collaboration on these areas with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests was also seen as highly relevant for supporting enhanced implementation.

Lastly, it was stressed that for unlocking forests full potential and for strengthening the multi-functional role of forests, improved governance and institutional mechanisms, able to effectively capitalize on and utilize both existing financial instruments and mechanisms and the opportunities resulting from the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda were needed. There is a need also for developing national forest financing strategies and effective instruments to strengthen financing for SFM, including for non-carbon benefits of forests and other ecosystem services based on proper valuation, and for strengthening public-private and private-private partnerships in financing for SFM.

## **10. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of this principle:**

Through its recent deliberations COFO strongly recognized the integrative and cross sectoral nature of the SDGs and that their realization would require coordinated approaches. As it has been recalled repeatedly, major forces influencing progress in the forest sector are in most cases from outside and hence cannot be addressed through forestry measures only. For COFO it is particularly relevant that the central role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to achieve key goals of the SDGs has been widely recognized. As noted in the secretariat paper, the “major challenge for these sectors is to strengthen their engagement in highest level discussions on national development strategies, programmes and partnerships. They must demonstrate to national decision-makers that agriculture, forestry and fisheries are important contributors to achieving national goals and targets”<sup>18</sup>.

It was also noted that “equally important is to make a stronger case for investment in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in priority setting for national development. The SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, with their extensive and detailed attention to agriculture, biodiversity, fisheries, forests, land, soils, and water, present a unique window of opportunity for a stronger role in shaping national development trajectories. For this to happen, transformation envisaged by member states at the global level needs to be set in motion nationally within each country. National leaders are expected to look at the role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a new way, launching a process of transformation at national levels that is owned and led by national governments and their partners and key stakeholders”<sup>19</sup>.

All these would require new governance arrangements, new ways of dialogue and collaboration across sectors and with different stakeholders, more dialogue on strategy development and better coordination of planning, and strengthened institutional mechanisms and capacities.

For forests particular challenges lay in finding the proper balance between the provision of goods and services and the conservation and protection of the natural resource. The success of finding this balance will be largely influenced by developments in other sector, in particular in agriculture, including in finding the appropriate responses to the land use challenges thereby eliminating one of the major drivers of deforestation. The financial viability of sustainable forest management is also crucial in this regard ensuring that unsustainable or illegal activities would not take precedence over sustainable ones simply for economic reasons.

Climate change and its associated impacts represent a particular challenge for forests and every efforts should be made to make sure that forests remain capable of both mitigating climate change and adapt to it. Without these the global ecological system may embark on a major transformation process with many irreversible and unforeseen consequences that would fundamentally undermine our ability and possibility to reach the ambitious targets of the SDGs.

## **11. Areas where political guidance by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is required:**

The SDGs are truly transformative and closely interlinked. They are calling for new modalities in the way policies, programmes, partnerships and investments are developed to achieve them, transforming the way different stakeholders cooperate. COFO’s deliberations clearly identified the need for acknowledging the major interlinkages between goals and targets and called for a transformative change and enhanced cross-sectoral collaboration at all levels.

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<sup>18</sup> COFO/2016/5.1 paragraph 6.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid, paragraph 7.

Building a common approach requires the development of a common understanding and better dialogue across sectors. It requires involving different stakeholders, including private sector and civil society, and developing partnerships for effective action at different levels. Achieving progress on the SDGs makes it necessary to align and enhance investments towards agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and to put focus on actions that have the potential to achieve measurable results on the ground.

The collaboration with other Technical Committees of FAO provided a practical example of the values and benefits of such collaboration. COFO also stressed the need for strengthening collaboration at regional, national and where applicable, sub-national levels. This would require deliberate actions from governments to help bring about the needed platforms and methods of collaboration.

The HLPF seems to be best placed to develop a broad vision of collaboration and invite member states to consider actions in this regard. It is very likely, especially if it will be encouraged to do so, that COFO, as it has done in the previous two years, will continue to deliver this message also in its future contributions.

COFO also noted the opportunities arising from strengthening collaboration of major global organizations, instruments and processes. COFO regularly gives guidance to FAO on its involvement in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF, a voluntary partnership of 14 major UN and non-UN organizations, chaired by FAO) and sends invitations, as and when appropriate, to governing bodies of CPF member organizations in relation to enhancing the Partnership's input to the global dialogue. With the recent adoption of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, which defines, inter alia, the core functions of CPF and its expected contributions to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, a new chapter can start in global collaboration on forest issues. The HLPF can consider recognizing the role of the CPF and its collaborative efforts as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence on forest issues at all levels. The HLPF can further encourage member states, also as members of the governing bodies of the CPF member organizations, to support the work of the Partnership, as called for by ECOOSC resolution 2015/33 in paragraph 24.

## **12. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication**

The most relevant policy recommendations made by the 23rd Session of COFO invited countries to:

- improve coordination between policies on forests, agriculture, food, land use and rural development for more effective regulation of land use change;
- promote integrated land use planning as a strategic framework for balancing land uses at national, subnational and landscape scales;
- strengthen tenure rights taking into account the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;
- use adequate policy instruments, including training and capacity building, and boost investments, including through existing international financial mechanisms to increase sustainable agricultural production and sustainable forest management<sup>20</sup>.
- strengthen dialogue with agriculture, fisheries and other relevant sectors on joining efforts for transformative change towards the achievement of the SDGs, in particular on actions to eradicate hunger and eliminate poverty, while conserve and sustainably manage natural resources in line with the recommendations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF);
- use the five interconnected principles developed by FAO as an approach to promote sustainability for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, based on balancing the different dimensions of sustainability across sectors and along value chains;

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<sup>20</sup> COFO/2016/REP paragraph 10. b) (i)-(iv)

- review and adapt existing mechanisms and tools such as National Forest Programmes (NFPs) and Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) to inform and support decision making for sustainability across sectors;
- promote coherent and effective actions in sustainable forest management in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through the International Arrangement on Forests<sup>21</sup>
- mainstream the important role of forests and trees outside forests for food security and nutrition in policies and programmes and across all four dimensions of food security;
- take measures to promote the sustainable production of wood-fuel, as well as the efficient and safe use of wood-fuel for cooking and water sterilization;
- provide secure tenure rights, including to local communities to enable sustainable management of forest resources for increased contribution to food security and nutrition, in accordance with national legislation.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid, paragraph 12. a) - d)

<sup>22</sup> COFO/2016/REP paragraph 31. a) - c)

## Inputs from the FAO's Committee on Agriculture (COAG)

### Introduction/key messages

1. Past developments in agriculture have led to major improvements in productivity, making it possible to feed a rapidly growing population, thus avoiding major famines and making food more affordable. In addition to meeting humanity's basic needs for food, feed, fibre and fuel, agriculture, together with the forestry and fisheries sectors, employs more than one in three of the world's workers, and provides livelihoods for rural households totalling 2.5 billion people
2. However, the situation is far from being ideal: the majority of the 795 million people who do not eat sufficiently live in developing regions where poverty and inequalities are widespread. Seventy percent of the poor live in rural areas and rely on agriculture as the main source of their livelihoods. Many of them are excessively exposed to increasing climate variability and excessive market volatility. Land degradation and water scarcity affect the most vulnerable in a disproportionate way, and threaten the sustainability of agriculture systems, alongside the loss of living resources and biodiversity. Agriculture contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, but is also a victim of climate change, with rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, pest and disease pressure, water scarcity, and extreme weather events.
3. Therefore, food and agriculture lie at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda. Implementing sustainable agriculture is central to the achievement of many SDGs, and it is therefore important to recognise this by strengthening the engagement of the sector in national development strategies.
4. Agriculture contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, but is also a victim of climate change, with rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, pest and disease pressure, water scarcity, and extreme weather events. Such negative impacts of climate change threatens food security endangering food production systems.
5. To achieve the SDGs, a new approach is needed - one that integrates agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and that takes into account trade-offs and synergies across sectors and across sustainability dimensions. FAO has recently developed the elements of a framework and approach to address sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a more effective and integrated way. This approach, endorsed by COAG during its 25<sup>th</sup> session last year, helps to support the necessary policy dialogues and governance arrangements and to identify sustainable development pathways across the SDGs, across the sectors and along related value chains, in line with the principles and approaches underpinning the 2030 Agenda.

### Submission Form

#### **An assessment of the situation regarding "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world".**

6. The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) has always played an important role in guiding the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As FAO's main technical advisory body on agriculture, COAG has provided strategic advice on many of the challenges FAO has faced including pesticides, gender, food safety, food loss and waste, rural infrastructure and rural finance, nutrition, climate change and sustainability, the management of natural resources and many other issues. COAG is helping FAO better fulfil its mandate by providing both



technical and policy advice on issues ranging from sustainable crop and livestock production intensification to how to manage land and water resources in a changing climate. The Committee also highlights the role of agriculture not only as a source of food, but in providing livelihoods for millions of smallholder farmers and their families around the world as well as ecosystem services.

7. COAG is increasingly addressing the multiple dimensions of agriculture, making sure that its social, environmental and economic dimensions are taken into account into FAO work and in its relation with member countries.
8. COAG deliberations and recommendations have significantly impacted FAO's work and have contributed significantly to improving livelihood of the poor and most vulnerable segments of the population, as well as promote prosperity and growth in the changing world.
9. Based on COAG recommendations, FAO supports the integration of agreements, standards (Codex alimentarius, IPPC) and guidelines that are important in the agriculture /environment nexus and assists member countries in their implementation with a view to the needs of the poorest farmers (SDG 1). The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is one example. In addition, COAG supported the FAO Strategy for Sustainable Crop Production Intensification through an ecosystem approach and an enabling environment (the "Save and Grow" approach), as well as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock Development (GASL) (SDG2). Such instruments have different approaches to vulnerability. The Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides and several of its guidelines refer to the need to protect vulnerable populations, which they define as including women, children, and unborn children (SDG5). "Save and Grow" specifically refers to vulnerable groups such as smallholders and in particular to the importance of social safety nets for their benefit.
10. Concerning GASL, FAO has initiated and facilitated a multi-stakeholder consultation on the governance of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock in 2016 resulting into an agreed format on governance, including a Guiding Group with seven stakeholder clusters. See document COAG/2016/9 - *The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock*.
11. Based on a careful analysis of the challenges and global trends, the following are key areas where COAG has concentrated its advice to FAO in the past several years.

**Recognizing smallholder agriculture as a foundation of food security:**

12. COAG, In 2000, recommended the need for policies to support smallholder agriculture and stressed the need to recognize that "sustainable smallholder agriculture (including livestock) can provide environmentally friendly, socially equitable and economically viable solutions". Recently, FAO has been promoting the Common Vision on Sustainable Food and Agriculture approach, an approach based on five principles that puts rural livelihoods, equity and social well-being at the center of the agricultural debate (SDG 2).

**Seeking gender equality in agriculture:**

13. The gender gap imposes significant costs on society, in terms of lost agricultural output, food security and economic growth. The FAO Gender Equality Policy – which firmly recognizes this – has received COAG's support, including requests for gender relevant, sex-disaggregated agricultural statistics and the mainstreaming of gender issues (SDG 5).

#### **Helping farmers access better seeds:**

14. Food security is heavily dependent on the seed security of farming communities, particularly the poor. For this reason, COAG has always placed special emphasis on seed production and the dissemination of improved varieties. The Committee supported FAO's work in developing more sustainable and efficient seed systems in developing countries (SDG 2).

#### **Promoting safe, good food for everyone (CODEX):**

15. As the body responsible for managing the development of global food standards, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) has been at the centre of global debates on many important issues including biotechnology, pesticides, food additives and contaminants. COAG's Member Nations have repeatedly expressed their support for Codex via statements by the Committee. Specifically in 1999, they agreed that Codex was the correct forum to set standards for organic agriculture and genetically modified organisms. More recently in 2012 the Committee advised Council that Codex's standard-setting activities should be included in the new Strategic Objectives (SDG2, 3).

#### **Protecting plants from pests and diseases:**

16. COAG and its Member Nations have for many years supported the important activities of the [International Plant Protection Convention \(IPPC\)](#). Fundamental to the success of the IPPC is the continued development and adoption of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures. In its 2012 meeting, COAG again highlighted the work of the IPPC and recommended it be included in FAO's new Strategic Objectives. For instance, while many countries still use pesticides to control the desert locust, in 2005 the Committee supported the development of a new preventive strategy using FAO's Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (SDG 2, 9). In September 2013, FAO launched a preventive locust control campaign in Madagascar, which was threatening the food security and livelihoods of 13 million people or nearly 60 percent of the island's population. Today, the Organization's fifth Strategic Objective focuses on increasing "the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis" including "emergencies in the food chain (e.g. transboundary plant, forest, animal, aquatic and zoonotic pests and diseases)".

#### **Promoting sustainable agriculture:**

17. COAG has been working in the area for many years, helping to drive the sustainability agenda at FAO, and promoting the development of an ecosystem approach to farming including the adoption of integrated pest management. In 2012, the Committee also helped guide the development of global standards on pesticides by advising on revisions to the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (SDG 2).

#### **Promoting agribusiness and agro-industries:**

18. One of the most important developments in global agriculture since the food price crisis of 2007 and 2008 has been the increasing levels of investment in food production and the rapid growth of the agribusiness sector, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In 2007, COAG recommended that "FAO give priority to responding to the challenges of agribusiness and agro-

industries development by reinforcing expertise and capacity, providing high quality information and analysis, supporting agro-industry and value chain programmes and enhanced public-private cooperation”.

19. Then in 2010, COAG’s Member Nations focused on FAO’s existing Strategic Objectives and “emphasized the importance of the work on agribusiness and rural agro-industries, in particular small and medium enterprises, also with a view of expanding rural employment opportunities.” (SGD 1, 2, 9)

#### **Recognizing the role of urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA):**

20. Agriculture – including horticulture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and fodder and milk production – is increasingly spreading to towns and cities. In 1999, COAG first reviewed and discussed the role of urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) and recommended that FAO develop an integrated approach to assist member countries deal with UPA at the policy and technical level. Since that initial step by COAG, FAO has launched various initiatives in this area including the Growing Greener Cities project to promote urban and peri-urban-horticulture; School garden projects in a number of countries; Programmes to improve water quality used for urban horticulture, and the Food for the Cities programme, which since 2001 has supported and coordinated activities focused on urban food security (SDG 1, 2, 3).

#### **Recognizing the growth of the livestock sector:**

21. COAG was among the first global bodies to look at the growing importance of the livestock sector in terms of its need for land and feed, the increasing consumption of animal products, and sustainability. The Committee has endorsed the need for an enhanced capacity building programme by FAO to assist developing countries to take advantage of the opportunities. In 2014, COAG recommended FAO to intensify its work on *Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)*. The FAO has undertaken a number of activities since then towards the implementation of the programme of AMR. See document COAG/2016/16 - *Update on FAO's Work on Antimicrobial Resistance*, for a detailed report (SDG 2, 3).

#### **Reducing post-harvest losses:**

22. In 2010, COAG’s Member Nations recognized that more attention should be given to the reduction of post-harvest losses (SDG 2).

#### **Establishing the Global Soil Partnership:**

23. The partnership endorsed by COAG in 2012, acts as a major vehicle to catalyse effective and concerted actions to halt the pervasive degradation of soils through the promotion and encouragement of investment in sustainable soil management as a priority for food security and sustainable development (SDG 1, 2, 3)

#### **Managing water resources:**

24. Based on COAG recommendations (**COAG 2014**) FAO has become a global leader in collecting, analysing and disseminating data and information on water resources (especially transboundary water resources); and on water use and irrigation. FAO also develops methodologies and guidelines and provides technical assistance to countries to improve their assessment and monitoring capacities (SDG 1, 2, 3).

#### **Promoting family farming:**

25. Following COAG recommendation (COAG 2014), FAO has been providing support to the Regional Initiative on Small Scale Agriculture, in order to realize national studies on family farming typologies. FAO has undertaken the development of a smallholder farmers' comprehensive, systematic and standardized information platform and analysed smallholder farmers' challenges and opportunities across the world within the context of income diversification, rural transformation and agricultural transition. Analyses are on-going on the importance of rural transformation and smallholder diversification in rural areas as a strategy to increase incomes and agricultural productivity, mitigate the impacts of risks and shocks in agricultural income and generate jobs for the poor (SDG 1, 2, 3,5).
26. Recognizing the important role of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS): Since the GIAHS Initiative was launched in 2002, it has been piloting an innovative model that engages communities, local and national governments to identify, recognize, support and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their livelihoods, agricultural and associated biodiversity, landscapes, knowledge systems and cultures around the world. COAG in 2014, expressed support for the GIAHS concept and recognized the contribution of GIAHS to cultural heritage, biological diversity and sustainable development; it further acknowledged that the Council had agreed that the GIAHS initiative be vested with formal status within the FAO framework;
27. Accordingly, the GIAHS Programme has been embedded into FAO's Strategic Framework, in particular Strategic Objective 2, with a more streamlined decision making processes and governance structure and the Secretariat has been made fully operational. A new Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) has been established in 2016 for a two-year period ensuring independent scientific advice and guidance to the GIAHS programme operations and development (SDG 1, 2)
28. Acknowledging importance of South-South Cooperation (SSC): the Committee, in 2016, encouraged countries to make use of the mechanism to mainstream nutrition into national and regional agricultural policies and programmes. It also encouraged FAO to deliver its normative and science and evidence-based work through SSC. Regarding the agricultural census, The Committee encouraged FAO to provide technical assistance and training, as well as to share technologies and methodologies, including through South-South Cooperation.

**Intensifying sustainable production:**

29. COAG (COAG 2014) recommended FAO focus on local adaptation of Sustainable Production Intensification practices, value chains and methodologies to assess and reduce food losses and waste in support of sustainable food systems( SDG 1, 2).

**Ensuring food safety:**

30. COAG (2014) recommended FAO play a greater role in contributing to global food chain intelligence and in assisting countries to contain the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the potential negative impacts on food and agriculture. FAO should continue giving high attention to addressing transboundary animal diseases (TADs), to establish and implement with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) the Global Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Control and Eradication Programme (2, 3).

### **Focussing on agriculture and the 2030 agenda:**

31. COAG (2016) stressed that food and agriculture contribute to the achievement of all SDGs, and many of their targets, and agreed that a new approach is needed for this to happen, where agriculture is looked at through the full set of sustainability dimensions: social, environmental and economic. In particular, COAG discussions focused on the livelihood aspect of agriculture, stressing that agriculture can be sustainable only if it ensures that producers have decent income, adequate access to and control of productive resources; that the gender gap is addressed, and that equity and social well-being are improved. Acknowledging the social dimension of agriculture explicitly in sectoral policies and programmes has the potential to address some of the key challenges of the 2030 Agenda, and in particular the eradication of poverty, and the promotion of prosperity, through the development of vibrant and productive agriculture (SDG 2).

### **Adapting to and mitigating climate change:**

32. Climate change threatens to undercut and possibly reverse the progress that has been made in the fight against hunger and malnutrition in recent years. Smallholder producers and the rural poor in developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and climate variability largely due to limited resilience and diversity in their production systems (SDG 1, 2, 9. )
33. Last year, COAG (2016) discussed FAO's Climate Change Strategy (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr237e.pdf>), whose main objective is to contribute to improving the livelihood of the poor and most vulnerable segments of the population, as well as promoting prosperity and growth in a changing world. The Strategy lays out what FAO aims to achieve and how it will do so to best support Member Countries in confronting the climate change adaptation needs of their food and agricultural systems and dependent livelihoods, while also realizing the mitigation potential of these systems. Member States in COAG emphasized the importance of FAO prioritizing the most vulnerable in its support.

### **Strengthening partnerships:**

34. Partnerships are at the heart of COAG's mission to build a consensus for a world free from hunger and poverty. As a result, FAO is bringing together diverse stakeholders and supporting countries to implement inclusive approaches to strengthen sustainable food and agriculture development. At regional, sub-regional and national levels, multistakeholder dialogues and partnerships are being strengthened in particular, with the private sector, civil society, farmer and producer organizations and academia and research institutions that work in areas relevant to FAO's mandate. These include family farming, land tenure, sustainable food systems, food loss and waste reduction, resilience, responsible agriculture investments climate, soil, livestock and mountain. These contributions are directly linked to SDGS in particular to SDG 1, 2 and 5.

### **13. The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges:**

35. Agriculture is often considered in national policies as a production sector only, and the social and environmental dimensions of agriculture are usually not considered explicitly in national policies. Without direct consideration of social and environmental issues, progress in sustainable development can only be partial. Almost 80 percent of poor people live in rural

areas. Agriculture employs 1/3 of the world's workers and provides livelihoods for 2.5 billion people (SDG 1). Sufficient food is produced for the world population, yet almost 800 million go hungry, underlining that food production does not automatically lead to food security. Family farmers produce 80 percent of the food consumed in developing countries and at the same time 80 percent of the world's hungry are directly involved in food production (SDG 2). Good health starts with healthy and nutritious food, free from potentially harmful chemical residues (SDG 3). Seventy percent of the people actively engaged in farming are women. Women produce 1/2 the world's food but have much less access to land (SDG 5). The vast majority of agricultural research worldwide has focused on increasing yields of a handful of commodity crops with negative impacts on the environment and livelihoods (SDG 9).

36. The recent celebration of the International Year of Pulses raised awareness of the fact that Pulses are a critical source of protein and other nutrients for a large part of the world population. In order to value the importance of pulses, some key issues need to be addressed: (1) the lack of policies to promote sustainable production of pulses, research and extension; (2) the lack of knowledge and information on the nutritional value of different pulses species; (3) The need to better understand the value of pulses for soil health, climate change and biodiversity; (4) The lack of access to local and global markets including seeds; and (5) the need to gather evidence on farming practices to improve pulses-based production systems; especially addressing family farmers and rural poor households to improve their livelihood and food security.
37. Within the livestock sector, there is vast recognition of the contribution of the sector to economic growth and livelihoods, the importance of food safety, while there are growing threats of animal origin to human health, as well as the potential for negative environmental impacts and natural resource erosion without the right policies. Livestock contribute to more than 40 percent of agriculture's GDP, yet investment in the sector is below 3 percent.
38. To be sustainable, the livestock sector needs to (i) respond to the growing demand for livestock products and enhance its contribution to food and nutritional security; (ii) provide secure livelihoods and economic opportunities for hundreds of millions of pastoralists and smallholder farmers, 70 percent of which are women; (iii) use natural resources efficiently and address climate change; and (iv) enhance human, animal, and environmental health. Ensuring current and future development of the livestock sector addresses the above issues and reconciles the needs of different stakeholders and potential trade-offs simultaneously.
39. It also requires the exploration of new approaches that capitalize on the strength of different actors by building consensus and commitment among all concerned to action and on-the-ground improvements. The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (formally known as the Global Agenda of Action in Support of Sustainable Livestock Sector Development, in short, the Agenda), a multi-stakeholder partnership committed to sustainable livestock sector development, is one example of these new ways of working. The Agenda partnership is a direct response to a request by the 22nd Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to investigate suitable options for stakeholder dialogue and concerted action in support of sustainable livestock sector development. It builds consensus on the path towards sustainable food security through dialogue, consultation and joint analyses to catalyze innovation and investment in sustainable sector development.

40. As for climate change, the FAO Strategy identifies gaps and emerging challenges in addressing it in the agricultural sectors. COAG specifically discussed financing gaps for the agriculture sector's action on climate change; the capacities of national institutions to undertake monitoring, reporting and verification of agricultural GHG emissions as well as the inter-sectoral nature of the climate problem, necessitating strong institutional linkages in contexts where these might be weak.

**14. Valuable lessons learned on ensuring effective measures to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity:**

41. When cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and multi-objective processes are put in place, agriculture policies stand a much higher chance to effectively contribute to several of the SDGs, in particular, the creation of decent employment conditions, better integration between agriculture and social protection policies, improved living conditions in rural areas, and the recognition that different categories of producers require different responses. These processes would allow agricultural development not only to contribute to national economic development, but to do so in an inclusive way with widespread benefits for all, including the most vulnerable people.

42. By addressing agriculture through all the dimensions of sustainability, COAG proposes to strengthen the position of agriculture as a major contributor to the realization of the 2030 Agenda. To that end, COAG adopted an approach based on six elements developed by FAO as a basis for policy dialogue and governance arrangements: 1. Efficient resources use; 2. Conservation of natural resources; 3. Protection of rural livelihoods; 4. Enhanced resilience of people and ecosystems; 5. Effective and responsible governance; 6. Enhanced conditions for trading agricultural goods. Pilot experiments have shown that, when systematically applied, these principles create the conditions for designing more comprehensive policies in agriculture.

43. In addition, the agricultural sectors are fundamental to eradicating poverty and hunger and promoting prosperity. FAO's approach to tackling climate change with this goal in mind will be in line with development effectiveness principles anchored in country ownership, leadership, commitment and mutual accountability. National efforts will stand to benefit from regional collaboration as well as the awareness-raising that FAO can undertake at global level to raise the profile of the agricultural sectors in the international climate discourse.

44. The most successful interventions will provide immediate term support while laying the ground for long-term resilience. Multi-stakeholder, multi-sector, inclusive processes that foster ownership among all concerned yield the best, most lasting results. Climate-smart approaches, in which productivity increases are prioritized alongside improved system resilience, and in which mitigation co-benefits are pursued where possible, will be vital if poverty and hunger are to be eradicated in the face of climate change.

45. Investments in ensuring livestock health as well as the safety of their products contribute positively to human health, as animals can be a source of debilitating or deadly infectious diseases in people. Between 60 and 75 percent of the existing and emerging human pathogens

are of animal origin. Thus improving efficiency through investments in livestock health and nutrition leads to increased production efficiency by using fewer resources, contributing to food availability and safety, as well as global health security while mitigating negative environmental impacts.

46. Important lessons about crops were learned in the run up to the International Year of Pulses. Pulses have proved to be a critical component of multiple cropping systems, e.g., intercropping, crop rotation, agroforestry, and these cropping systems have greater species diversity than industrial monocrop systems. Increasing the diversity of species in cropping systems not only results in a more efficient use of resources, namely light, water and nutrients, but can also increase the combined yields of intercropped species in a given area and lowers the risk of overall crop failure.

**15. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of this principle:**

47. Climate change is the largest threat to poverty eradication and prosperity in agriculture. Evidence shows that the impacts of rising temperatures, greater climate variability and more frequent extreme events already has direct impacts on agriculture, and that the poor and vulnerable are affected in a disproportionate way. Actions to increase the resilience of farming systems are urgently needed to ensure that they can cope with and adapt to the effects of climate change.
48. Agriculture (comprising crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry) absorbs approximately 22 percent of the economic impact caused by medium and large-scale natural hazards and disasters in developing countries, and as such is the sector most vulnerable to climate change. Limited resilience among vulnerable groups such as women, youth, indigenous peoples or rural populations, in particular those living in remote or particularly fragile ecosystems such as mountains or coastal areas were discussed at COAG in 2016. Particular vulnerabilities of the different agricultural subsectors, as well as natural resources such as soils and water, were also explored. COAG specifically called for stronger integration of biodiversity and genetic diversity in the Climate Change Strategy of FAO.
49. Increasing food price volatility affect both producers and consumers, in particular the most vulnerable.
50. Scarcity of land and water in a growing number of regions across the world lead to competition and conflicts between producers and between agriculture and other sectors. Poor and vulnerable producers are those most affected by this trend, as they do not have the power to make their case and claim access to the resources they need to make a living.
51. Growing urbanization offers new market opportunities for farmers, but it often poses a challenge to agricultural producers in remote areas.
52. Microbe transmission is a growing threat with population growth; agriculture intensification; livestock and crop production (often monocultivars); disease susceptibility; rapid transport; and long value chains. For example, a myriad of avian influenza virus strains continues to circulate and has caused thousands of human deaths and billions of dollars in losses to the poultry



industry. The severe acute respiratory syndrome which appeared in markets in China and fatally affected humans; outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease or peste des petits ruminants in areas previously considered free from these plagues; or the devastating cases of Ebola, in West Africa. These threats and outbreaks will be more common. With warming and more humid climates, more diseases are likely to spread either directly or because their vectors (mosquitoes, ticks) find new suitable habitats.

**16. Areas where political guidance by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is required:**

53. The High Level Political Forum may want to provide guidance on how the agriculture sector can effectively contribute to several of the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, it may want to stress the contribution of agriculture to the following goals:

Goal 1: a more inclusive and equitable agriculture sector can go a long way to reducing poverty, as 70 percent of the poor live in rural areas and rely on agriculture as their main source of livelihood. Many of these communities are exposed to increasing climate variability and excessive market volatility.

Goal 2: agriculture plays a direct role in ending hunger, by providing sufficient food of adequate quality to ensure food security in all its dimensions, including improved nutrition. The promotion of sustainable agriculture is the way to achieve this in an efficient; sustainable; and inclusive way.

Goal 3: there is an increasing awareness of the linkage between agricultural production and improved nutrition. By applying some key principles, agriculture can go a long way in ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being through nutritious and quality food.

Goal 5: gender equality is central to sustainable agriculture, and, the sector has the potential to contribute to enhanced gender equality through promoting more equal access to productive resources, including land, and considering that women produce half of the world's food but have much less access to land than men.

Goal 9: agriculture plays a central role in the economy of many countries, as it accounts for ¼ of the GDP of developing countries.

Goal 14: COAG is discussing with other FAO Technical Bodies the need for an approach to development that takes much more into account cross-sectoral interactions. There are many positive and negative interactions between agriculture and fisheries, through the management of coastal areas; the prevention of pollution from land-based activities; and better integration of agriculture and aquaculture that, if well managed, have the potential to bring benefits to producers on both sides. Cross-sectoral policy coherence will be key in achieving more and better results in agriculture and marine resource management.

Furthermore, the HLPF is invited to address the question of smallholder access to means of implementation for climate action in agriculture, comprising both improved knowledge of adaptive strategies and financing support, such as weather-based insurance or social protection.

Partnership should be enhanced and made effective in the public, public-private and civil society spheres to strengthen actions to achieve the SDGs.

**17. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress for poor and most vulnerable segments of the society:**

54. The agriculture sector offers unique opportunities to address many Sustainable Development Goals, and to advance progress in relation to the poor and most vulnerable sectors of the society, as the majority of the poor live in rural areas and draw their living directly from agriculture. Investing in more productive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture therefore impacts directly on the poverty agenda.
55. The five elements of sustainable food and agriculture that COAG has endorsed in 2016 offer a basis for the policy dialogue and governance arrangements that are needed to identify sustainable development pathways across the SDGs. Putting people at the centre of agricultural policy discussions, and ensuring that their specific needs are addressed, has the potential to accelerate progress towards poverty reduction in rural areas. In addition, focusing efforts on resilience and adaptation to climate change is likely to have a positive impact on the most vulnerable segment of agricultural populations (SDG,1,2, 9).
56. Work should be delivered through multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships with particular attention to South-South cooperation and engagement with the private sector and civil society organizations” (COAG/2016/REP Para. 24).
57. In its Climate Change Strategy, FAO commits to promote adequate consideration of food security and the roles of the agricultural sectors in global climate policy, as well as to assist countries to transition towards food and agricultural systems and livelihoods that are better adapted and more resilient to the impacts of climate change, and that contribute to global efforts to keep warming within 1.5-2 degrees Celsius.
58. In particular, FAO will support national governments to address agricultural development and food security in their implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments under the Paris Agreement – and vice versa, to integrate climate change considerations in their agricultural sector investment and development plans.
59. Furthermore, in the livestock sector, high level political commitment to promote the One Health approach can capture the interlinking and investment required within the public sector through priority planning and financing. Tackling the threat at source is more cost effective than waiting for spill over transmission events from animals to humans; tackling the outbreak when it is small is more cost effective than waiting for it to cross borders or continents. Having sound compensation policies in place before the outbreak is a repeated but poorly followed policy advice.
60. Concerning pulses, the development and implementation of policies related to pulse research on production, nutrition and value chain (including development of new pulse products) are required in order to accelerate the improvement of production and consumption of pulses. It is important that these policies also address the needs of small scale producers of pulses regarding access to high quality seeds and improved production techniques, developing access to markets, strengthening social acceptance of indigenous pulse species and improving knowledge about nutrition quality of different pulses.

The SDGs promote the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms as a mechanism for debate and construction of global policies in programmes to combat hunger, malnutrition and poverty. This should

be entered into a number of collaborative initiatives with public and private sectors (governments, private entities and civil society organizations) that work together in various areas in the agricultural sector. This inclusive model should be continued and broadened with more vigour for direct SDG implementation at the national and local level. Concerted awareness-needs to be raised to support members in adopting and integrating the SDG in their regular tasks so as to create a seamless synergy between inputs and impact.

### **Inputs from the FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)**

#### **An assessment of the situation regarding “*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*”.**

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is the only intergovernmental body that specifically addresses all components of biodiversity relevant to food and agriculture. The Commission strives to halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to ensure world food security and sustainable development by promoting their conservation, sustainable use, including exchange, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use. It also addresses crosscutting topics such as climate change, biotechnologies, access and benefit sharing, nutrition and health with a view to ensure the conservation and use of genetic resources to benefit of all.

Biodiversity for food and agriculture, the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels sustain the ecosystem structures, functions and processes in and around production systems, and provide food and non-food agricultural products; they are therefore the basis of food security and crucial for rural livelihoods. Biodiversity is also essential for achieving nutritional diversity in diets – a diverse food basket – which is important for addressing increasing levels of human health problems from poor diets in many regions of the world. .

The Commission's policy instruments stress the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture for farmers, including, in particular small-scale farmers, rural development and income generation.

The Commission oversees regular country-driven global assessments of the state of the world's plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture and is currently in the process of finalizing the first report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. The global assessments provide the basis for the development of policies for the sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use. The Commission negotiated major international instruments, including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and global action plans for plant, animal and forest genetic resources. In addition to these instruments, the Commission prepared, with the assistance of its subsidiary bodies, guidelines and standards<sup>23</sup> supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or food and agriculture.

In its work on the different subsectors of genetic resources and on biodiversity for food and agriculture, the Commission is supported by a large number of National Focal Points.<sup>24</sup> The Commission monitors the implementation of its instruments through targets and indicators, and dedicated web-based information systems for country data. These systems help to monitor the implementation of SDG 2.5. The Commission's work contributes to several SDG targets, particularly under Goals 2 and 15, and especially SDG 2.5.

#### **The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges:**

<sup>23</sup> Available at <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-global/cgrfa-codes/en/>.

<sup>24</sup> Contact details are available at <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-about/national-contact/en/>.

The Commission organizes its work through a Multi-Year Programme of Work which identifies major outputs and milestones for its future work. The Multi-Year Programme of Work serves as a planning tool for the Commission's Members to improve national policy coordination and mid-term planning of activities. It also allows the Commission to advise FAO systematically on the full range of its activities on biodiversity for food and agriculture, and on the priorities to be accorded to such work in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget.

Gaps and action needs are also reflected in the Commission's policy instruments, in particular its global action plans, which identify strategic priorities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, particularly relevant to SDG 2.5 and 2.4..

## **1. Valuable lessons learned on ensuring effective measure to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity:**

Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are essential for achieving other commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including those related to economic and social priorities. Genetic resources are the raw materials that local communities, breeders and researchers rely upon to improve the quality and output of food production. Breeding and accompanying management improvements contributed to increasing production efficiency.

The Commission negotiated the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) which was adopted by the FAO Conference at its Thirty-first Session in November 2001 and entered into force in June 2004. Objective of the ITPGRFA is the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFAs and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security. Through its Article 9 on Farmers' Rights, the ITPGRFA also recognizes the efforts and the enormous contributions of farmers to the development and conservation of crop diversity that constitutes the basis of food and agriculture production. It advises countries to take measures, among other things, to ensure the protection of traditional knowledge, the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources; the right to participate in national decision making on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources; and the right to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed. Through the ITPGRFA, countries increase their awareness on the importance of Farmers' Rights and share experience and knowledge for their realization.

The small-scale farmers and women farmers that are the custodians of the majority of genetic resources need access to input and product markets, capacity development, empowerment and incentives to continue the use and development of their traditional varieties/breeds for food production, and to continue the provision of regulating, supporting and cultural ecosystem services (clean water, fertile soils, habitat for pollinators etc).

FAO developed awareness raising material on the custodianship of small-scale producers<sup>25</sup>, on their empowerment<sup>26</sup>, and on improved marketing<sup>27</sup>. In its 16<sup>th</sup> Session the Commission requested FAO to review methods for identification and valuation of the ecosystem services provided by livestock breeds<sup>28</sup>.

The Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) of the ITPGRFA aims to support, in particular, small-scale farmers and local breeders in developing countries in adapting local seeds and crops to changing biotic and abiotic conditions, and thereby contributes to sustaining their livelihoods.

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<sup>25</sup> [Livestock Keepers – guardians of biodiversity](#), [Invisible Guardians - Women manage livestock diversity](#),

<sup>26</sup> [Biocultural Community Protocols for Livestock Keepers](#),

<sup>27</sup> [Adding Value to Livestock Diversity - Marketing to promote local breeds and improve livelihoods](#)

<sup>28</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report. Paragraph 47

While the indicators for SDG 2.5. focus on ex-situ conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture, in situ and on-farm conservation involving farmers, livestock keepers, forest dwellers, fisherfolk and indigenous communities also deserve political and financial support.

## **2. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of this principle:**

Climate change may add significant obstacles to poverty eradication. The Commission developed *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning* to assist countries in the development of policies that pay due attention to the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture to cope with climate change. The Voluntary Guidelines emphasize the adoption of inclusive approaches that ensure full participation of all stakeholders involved, including farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and forest dwellers in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation plans.

The lack of integrated rural development and empowerment of small-scale farmers, livestock keepers, forest dwellers and fisherfolk, the low level of incentives for sustainable production practices and maintaining heterogenous landscapes continue to threaten both, the custodians of agricultural biodiversity and the biodiversity itself.

## **3. Areas where political guidance by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is required:**

See above:

- include landscape perspective and ecosystem services provision in the deliberations of SDG 2.4.
- include in situ and on-farm conservation in SDG 2.5. deliberations
- discuss incentives for ecosystem services

## Inputs from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

### *Key messages*

*By the current trends, the world is not on track to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and meet SDG2 targets by 2030. The progressive realization of the right to adequate food is an imperative for success across the rest of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This requires policy coherence and coordination. Fostering the use and application at country level of CFS integrated policy instruments building on the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security is critical in national efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda.*

1. **Hunger and poverty must be addressed simultaneously** by raising incomes and productivity, securing smallholders' access to productive resources, creating decent employment for all, especially for women and youth, ensuring adequate social protection and enhancing functioning of markets, particularly for smallholders' beneficial access.
2. **Sustainable food systems must be at the heart of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity.** Coherent policies, strong accountable institutions and responsible investments are needed for sustainable food systems and natural resource management in the context of inclusive rural transformation and sustainable urbanization. They need to respect legitimate tenure rights and revitalize the agricultural sector, and prioritize women's empowerment and gender equality. The CFS *Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forestry and Fisheries* (VGGT), the *Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems* (CFS-RAI), the recommendations on *Connecting smallholders to markets* and on *Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for food security and nutrition* are important tools for national policy development and to align the efforts of different stakeholder groups.
3. **Countries in protracted crises are at risk of being left behind.** Protracted crises are often the result of the combination of multiple drivers, including conflict, natural disasters and climate change. Countries experiencing these circumstances should be given high priority by the international community. They need immediate actions to alleviate hunger and suffering, and medium to long-term actions to build resilience, avoid impoverishment, and address the underlying causes of food insecurity. The CFS *Framework for Action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises* (CFS-FFA) should be considered by all actors involved in situations of protracted crisis.
4. **All countries suffer from various forms of malnutrition.** Malnutrition affects their development potential and the health of their citizens and local communities. Accelerating efforts to address all forms of malnutrition will unlock human potential and stimulate positive change. The Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) provides a framework for collective action.

5. **Inclusive policy processes and effective partnerships are key to achieve the 2030 Agenda.** The meaningful participation of those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, often small-scale food producers, is essential for effective policy-making and partnerships to advance country-driven implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

*(a) Assessing the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level*

**Faster progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition is needed to ensure that “no one is left behind”**

1. Current progress on global hunger reduction is too slow to reach zero hunger by 2030, and other forms of malnutrition are even increasing. In 2015, according to the State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) Report, an estimated 793 million people (10.8 percent of the global population) lacked access to an adequate amount of dietary intake<sup>29</sup>; this includes 156 million stunted children<sup>30</sup>. Progress is uneven across regions, with the majority of hungry people concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Other forms of malnutrition are rising, with two billion people deficient in key vitamin and minerals, and 1.9 billion adults and 43 million children worldwide overweight or obese<sup>31</sup>. Today, 1 in 3 people are malnourished. Women, youth, indigenous peoples, small-scale food producers (including pastoralists, fisher folks, family farmers, and landless people), elderly and people with disabilities are among the groups most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, and should be given priority.

**Conflicts and crises increase the severity of food insecurity and raise the risk of famine**

2. The number of hungry and food insecure people in countries affected by conflict and crisis has increased dramatically in the past years. Globally, 108 million people were reported to be facing Crisis food insecurity or worse (IPC Phase 3 and above) in 2016, a drastic increase compared to 2015 when the figure was almost 80 million<sup>32</sup>. In 2016, major food crises were fuelled by conflict, record-high food prices in some countries and abnormal weather patterns caused by El Nino. Particularly conflicts are leaving large numbers of people food insecure, both in an acute and in a protracted way, while causing widespread displacement. In 2017, for the first time in 6 years, famine has been declared. The world currently faces the risk of four concomitant famines that are largely conflict-induced, whereby food production is disrupted and obstacles to external assistance prevent adequate access to food.

**The poverty (SDG1) and hunger (SDG2) nexus**

3. Hunger eradication (SDG2) is indivisible from the eradication of poverty in all its forms (SDG1). While poverty is often the main driver of food insecurity and malnutrition, hunger and malnutrition also result in the inability to escape poverty. It is key to prioritize interventions<sup>33</sup> in rural areas, where the majority of extreme poor and chronically food insecure live.

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<sup>29</sup> FAO, IFAD and WFP, 2016 [Monitoring Food Security and Nutrition in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Taking stock and looking ahead](#)

<sup>30</sup> UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, September 2016 edition

<sup>31</sup> UNICEF/WHO/World Bank. Joint Malnutrition Estimates. 2012

<sup>32</sup> Global Report on Food Crises 2017, March 2017

<sup>33</sup> Specific recommendations are offered in section (f) of this contribution



## (b) The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges

### Investment and policy gaps remain to implement the 2030 Agenda

4. Poor quality of rural infrastructure and connectivity to markets, lack of capacity development, and lack of social protection mechanisms, continue to exclude many from potential benefits of wider development and growth. They directly result from insufficient levels of investment and financing, particularly in smallholder agriculture<sup>34</sup>.
5. Financing interventions to sustainably address these gaps, notably in developing countries, remains a challenge. Public and private investments including international cooperation and foreign direct investment should be increased to face “the enormous investment needs in these areas”. To achieve Zero Hunger, additional investments in social protection and pro-poor productive activities, including for rural development and in agriculture, are commonly stressed<sup>35</sup>.
6. Lack of policy coherence, inadequate legal and policy frameworks, and/or weak institutions to enforce them often contribute to slow and insufficient progress in countries. Integrated policy instruments developed at global level but informed by the reality on the ground can help address these challenges, particularly when they have been designed through inclusive processes.
7. Effective multistakeholder partnerships (MSPs) can be a central tool to share knowledge, technologies and innovation, and in mobilising additional financial and non-financial resources, including through South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation. Partnerships are identified as the key mechanism for delivery in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (SDG17), respecting each country’s policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development. To understand their effectiveness in financing and improving food security and nutrition outcomes, as well as their contribution to the governance of food systems, CFS commissioned a report from the HLPE on 'Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda' to inform its discussion in 2018.

## (c) Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity

### Include stakeholders for effective food security and nutrition governance at all levels

8. The *CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition* draws a number of lessons from the results achieved over the last decades on the importance of inclusiveness and multi-stakeholder participation in the design of policies at all levels. Effective systems of governance are needed at country level, involving all actors concerned, especially those most affected by the achievement of national food security and nutrition. All appropriate stakeholders, in particular small-scale food producers and local communities, should participate in the design, planning and implementation of programmes and projects, including research programmes, as well as partnerships created to improve local food security and nutrition. Effective national governance includes efficient,

<sup>34</sup> HLPE. 2013. [Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security](#); HLPE. 2012. [Social protection for food security](#)

<sup>35</sup> FAO, IFAD, WFP, 2015 [Achieving Zero Hunger, the critical role of investments in social protection and agriculture](#); IISD and IFPRI, October 2016 [Ending Hunger: What would it cost?](#)

accountable and transparent institutions and decision-making processes to ensure peace and respect for the rule of law, which are essential elements of a conducive business environment.

### **An integrated framework to achieve SDG2: The progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security**

9. Leaving no one behind” in the context of achieving SDG 2 means addressing as an absolute priority the progressive realization of the human right to adequate food.. National and international actions, investments and cooperation must be stepped up towards this goal. This calls for both short- and longer-term interventions (a “twin-track approach”<sup>36</sup>) to poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition and their causes<sup>37</sup>. The Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (VGRtF) provide an overall framework for achieving food security and nutrition objectives. They call for the right to adequate food to be the main objective of food security policies, programmes, strategies and legislation.
10. Such measures are particularly needed for vulnerable people living and working in specific locations (rural areas and hinterlands, urban slums) and sectors (small-scale agriculture) where poverty and hunger tend to be concentrated, and in which gender inequalities and gender-based discrimination, can particularly threaten women and girls’ nutritional status.

### **Smallholder agriculture plays a key role for SDG 2 and the 2030 Agenda.**

11. Small-scale food producers (including small-scale farmers, artisanal fisher-folks, and pastoralists) and other key actors across agri-food systems play a critical role in catalysing rural transformations that ensure sustainable livelihoods and human dignity, particularly in countries where smallholder agriculture is the main provider of food and employment<sup>38</sup>. They should be supported by enabling policies and targeted investments. Evidence shows that higher incomes among smallholders (SDG1, 2) can result in more diversified production and healthy diets, leading to improved nutrition and health (SDG3). Moreover, closing the gender gap in agriculture (SDG5) could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 percent<sup>39</sup>. Improved livelihoods of small scale food producers and rural actors can also generate demand for local agricultural inputs, assets and services, commercial distribution and processing infrastructure and services, and non-food consumable goods. This demand creates more entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for large youth populations and, if met, can help to achieve growth and development in previously ‘left behind’ areas (SDG9).

### **Integrate Progress Reviews at different levels**

12. Progress reviews and lesson sharing dialogues, linking country follow-up and review efforts to global thematic discussions on progress, are an integral part of CFS’ activities to promote accountability, and support countries in national policy making and achieving the Sustainable

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<sup>36</sup> Declaration of the 2009 World Summit on Food Security

<sup>37</sup> Structural causes of hunger and malnutrition relate to governance, economic and production issues, demographic and social issues, climate and environmental issues, see [CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, rev 2016](#), Chapter II, A “Structural causes of hunger and malnutrition”

<sup>38</sup> HLPE. 2013. [Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security](#)

<sup>39</sup> FAO, [State Of Food and Agriculture report](#) 2011

Development Goals. CFS Plenary offers countries and stakeholders the space to discuss their experiences related to efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>40</sup>.

*(d) Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity<sup>41</sup>*

13. The world witnesses multiple burdens of **malnutrition**, with some countries, communities and households suffering from combinations of undernutrition, overweight and obesity, and micronutrient deficiencies. Policies and investments in agricultural and food systems need to place greater emphasis on ensuring adequate nutritional outcomes and promote healthy diets. There is also a strong economic case for investing in nutrition in order to reduce the costs associated with hidden hunger and stunting: the compound rate of return on nutrition investments is more than 10 percent<sup>42</sup>. Supported by an HLPE report on “Nutrition and Food Systems” to be presented in CFS 44 in October 2017, CFS is expected to develop policy guidance in the next biennium to support governments and national multistakeholders to establish an enabling environment for food systems to deliver on improved nutrition, as part of its contribution to the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) Work Programme.
14. **Rural transformation, integral to wider structural transformation and urbanization**, can reduce rural as well as urban poverty and galvanize prosperity if deliberate, coherent policy and investment measures result in better inclusion and integration of urban and rural development. These measures should prioritize the creation of more and better income generating opportunities, infrastructure and services which benefit everyone, create decent employment especially for young people, empower women, expand social protection programmes, improve nutrition for all, and address rural/urban inequalities. The CFS is currently drawing lessons from across the world on these issues in order to share knowledge on experiences and effective policy approaches.
15. **Growing demand for agricultural products** is driving major changes in food systems worldwide, with multiple and diverse economic, social and environmental consequences<sup>43</sup> including the increasing challenge of food loss and waste. Fueled by a change in consumption patterns in a number of emerging economy countries, the **livestock sector** is particularly dynamic. This calls for improved sustainable livestock production. Ensuring food security and nutrition for an increasing world population, from limited and diversely available resources, given social and economic imbalances, offers both challenges and opportunities for sustainable agricultural development, including livestock systems. In 2016, CFS endorsed policy recommendations<sup>44</sup> on the role of livestock in sustainable agricultural development.

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<sup>40</sup> The CFS 43 Special Event “[From Agreement to Action: learning from the first voluntary national reviews in the HLPF](#)” featured the experiences of eight countries, drawn from the 2017 VNRs (China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Finland, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland), as well as 4 stakeholder representatives (Civil Society Mechanism, Private Sector Mechanism, Rome based Agencies, Local and Regional governments)

<sup>41</sup> This section draws from : *Note by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), [Critical and Emerging Issues for food security and nutrition](#), 2014; the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2016-2017 ; and discussions in the context of the CFS Open Ended Working Group on SDGs preparing its contribution to the 2017 HLPF review*

<sup>42</sup> [Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030](#). Washington, DC

<sup>43</sup> HLPE. 2016. [Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?](#)

<sup>44</sup> *ibid*

16. **The likely negative effects of climate change** on food security and livelihoods are alarming<sup>45</sup>; however relatively little investment has been committed to enable food producers to adapt to the increasingly damaging impacts on their production systems. The possible contribution of food systems to emission reduction efforts, and the need to link mitigation initiatives with investments in climate change adaptation to ensure especially vulnerable small-scale producers are not adversely impacted, needs further emphasis. In particular, climate adaptation – including resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, building adaptive capacities, social protection mechanisms and insurance - can positively impact on poverty and hunger eradication, particularly when it involves increased public and private investments in agriculture. The preamble of the 2015 Paris Agreement recognizes the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the impacts of climate change. Many Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)<sup>46</sup> now include agriculture and other land uses, emphasizing the relationship between climate change and food security<sup>47</sup>.

#### *(e) Areas where political guidance by the high-level political forum is required*

##### **Greater policy convergence and coherence is needed**

17. Following their commitment to engage in systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, an increasing number of countries are setting up inclusive follow-up and review mechanisms at national level. Many examples of these institutional arrangements were offered by volunteer countries in the lesson-sharing session on experiences in implementing the 2030 Agenda in CFS 43 (2016)<sup>48</sup>.

18. CFS has developed a number of policy guidelines and recommendations aimed at fostering integrated approaches to food security and nutrition, based on independent evidence and expertise, and designed with the participation of a range of relevant actors (see annex 1 for a full list). *The urgency is now for government policy-makers and stakeholders to use these to support national efforts and policy making.* The General Assembly, through its Second Committee Resolution A/RES/71/245, recognized the Voluntary Guidelines to support the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT) and CFS-Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), and encouraged countries to “*give due consideration to [their] dissemination, promotion and implementation*”. Guidance is needed from the HLPF to draw governments’ attention on the urgent need for country-level uptake of CFS policy products, as befits their national context.

19. CFS will continue to offer a platform in which countries and stakeholders can share their experiences at global level on the use, application and monitoring of the CFS policy products.

#### *(f) Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication*

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<sup>45</sup> According to IPCC 2014, climate change could increase the risk of hunger and malnutrition by up to 20 percent by 2050

<sup>46</sup> According to FAO, as of 2016, 168 out of 189 countries (89%) included agriculture, land use, land use change and or forestry in their mitigation contributions

<sup>47</sup> FAO, 2016. [The agriculture sectors in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions: Analysis](#), by Strohmaier, R., Rioux, J., Seggel, A., Meybeck, A., Bernoux, M., Salvatore, M., Miranda, J. and Agostini, A. Environment and Natural Resources Management Working Paper No. 62. Rome

<sup>48</sup> CFS 43 Special Event “[From Agreement to Action: learning from the first voluntary national reviews in the HLPF](#)”

**i. Secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests**

20. The eradication of hunger and poverty, and the sustainable use of the environment, depends in large measure on how people gain access to land, fish and forest resources. The livelihoods of many, particularly the rural poor, are based on secure and equitable access to and control over these resources. They are the source of food and shelter; the basis for social, cultural and religious practices; and a central factor in economic growth. In 2012, CFS members endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) to provide guidance to stakeholders on how to facilitate secure tenure rights and foster equitable access to land, fisheries, and forests.
21. The use of the VGGT can improve governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests for the benefit of all, and provide the needed foundation to eradicate hunger and poverty, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized people. The VGGT recognize customary tenure systems of indigenous peoples and other communities as legitimate, and encourage states to protect such rights. The VGGT aim to contribute to food security and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, social stability, housing security, rural development, environmental protection and sustainable social and economic development, and are directly relevant to targets of SDG 1, 2, 5, 14 and 17.

**ii. Invest responsibly in agriculture and food systems**

22. To end poverty and hunger by 2030 a significant increase in both public and private investment is needed, and current and future investment must be made more responsible and pro-poor<sup>49</sup>. Recognizing the vital role of smallholders in agriculture and food systems, it is particularly important that their capacity to invest be strengthened and secured. Investing in agriculture and food systems can produce multiplier effects for complementary sectors, such as services or manufacturing industries, thus further contributing to food security and nutrition and overall economic development. Responsible investment can make a significant contribution to enhancing sustainable livelihoods, in particular for smallholders and members of marginalized and vulnerable groups, by creating decent work for agricultural and food workers, fostering social and gender equality, empowering youth, promoting social participation and inclusiveness, increasing economic growth, and therefore achieving sustainable development. In 2014 CFS members and stakeholders reached consensus on the CFS-Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) to provide guidance to stakeholders on how to promote more responsible investment that contributes to food security and nutrition.
23. The use of the CFS-RAI Principles will help ensure that the needed investment to eradicate hunger is responsible, and provide a framework for continuous improvement of existing investments, enhancing livelihoods and promoting prosperity, and mitigating risks to food security and nutrition. The CFS-RAI are related to the achievement of SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, 17 targets.

**iii. Countries in protracted crises are at risk of being left behind and deserve specific attention**

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<sup>49</sup> FAO, IFAD, WFP, 2015 [Achieving Zero Hunger, the critical role of investments in social protection and agriculture](#); IISD and IFPRI, October 2016 [Ending Hunger: What would it cost?](#)

24. The most recent projections suggest that approximately half of the global poor now live in states characterized by conflict and violence<sup>50</sup>. Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity requires a greater focus on these countries, which often face continuous or recurring cycles of disaster, crisis or conflict that pose threats not only to peoples' lives but to their livelihoods. The emergency and relief assistance these countries rely on has not been able to break this cycle. Protracted crises call for specially designed and targeted assistance that addresses the immediate need to save lives and alleviate suffering, and also boosts resilience and the capacity to prepare for, absorb and prevent humanitarian disasters, crises and long-term stresses in the future. The particular impact on women and children, and the importance of considering gender in crises responses, should be given greater attention, while nutritional needs, given the severity of undernutrition during protracted crises, also require a special focus. In 2015, the CFS endorsed the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) to provide guidance to stakeholders on how to improve food security and nutrition in protracted crises while addressing the underlying causes.
25. The CFS-FFA represents the first global consensus on how to improve the food security and nutrition of populations affected by or at risk of protracted crises, through bridging humanitarian and development assistance. The CFS-FFA provides the basis for increasing integrated actions in countries affected by or at risk of protracted crises, and provides guidance on how to build resilience and prevent further crises and resulting impacts on food security and nutrition. CFS-FFA directly contributes to the achievement of SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, and 17.

#### **iv. Support smallholder access to markets**

26. Smallholders are crucially important in global food production, and yet constitute an overwhelming proportion of the world's poor, food insecure and malnourished population<sup>51</sup>. Globally, more than 80% of smallholders operate in local or domestic food markets, through which most of the food consumed in the world transits. Protecting and strengthening the role of smallholders in local, national and/or regional food systems, can enhance livelihoods, foster employment and contribute to local, social and economic development. However a variety of challenges can prevent smallholders from accessing reliable and remunerative markets and eliciting benefits to support healthy livelihoods. In 2016, CFS developed and adopted 'Recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets' that address these challenges.
27. The use and application of these recommendations will help to improve: data on the relationship between smallholders and markets, market infrastructure, specific constraints faced by women smallholders, youth education and employment s, production system diversification, nutrition, procurement programmes, and other areas which are directly relevant to the achievement of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 17.

#### **v. Develop integrated social protection policies and programs**

28. The expansion of social protection across the world has been critical for progress towards the international hunger targets. More than 100 countries now have some form of cash transfer programme that focuses on promoting food security and nutrition, health and education, particularly of children. However, about 70% of the world's population still lack access to some form

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<sup>50</sup> [Joint FAO/WFP update for the United Nations Security Council](#) (July 2016)

<sup>51</sup> HLPE. 2013. [Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security](#)

of social security<sup>52</sup>. Social protection instruments such as safety nets, can improve resilience, food security and nutrition. They also contribute to shared prosperity by raising levels of child nutrition and improving cognitive development, school attainments and future labour productivity, thereby enhancing earning potential and promoting development. By preventing the depletion of assets and reducing the personal risk of investing for the poor, social protection systems can also contribute to the adoption of higher-risk but higher-income livelihood options and alleviate some market failures. Finally, they can be implemented in ways that also contribute to promoting local production and markets.

29. The CFS Policy recommendations 'Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition', endorsed in 2012, built upon the findings of the HLPE report and support countries to put in place or strengthen comprehensive, nationally-owned, context-sensitive social protection systems for food security and nutrition, necessary to achieve SDG 1, 2, 3.

#### **vi. Empower women in rural areas and agriculture**

30. Women comprise 43% of the agriculture labour force in developing countries, and studies show that feminization of the agricultural sector will only increase in the future, due to factors such as migration, income diversification, modern technologies, climate change or conflicts. Despite their crucial role in agriculture, women still face constraints and multiple forms of discrimination and violations of their rights. These constraints reduce their productivity and access to markets, thereby limiting their contributions to agricultural development, economic growth and their well-being as well as that of their families and communities. If women were given the same access to resources as men, they could increase the yields on their farms by 20% – 30%<sup>53</sup>. Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment can have direct impacts on food security, nutrition, family incomes and household resilience, as well as overall agricultural production and productivity. This can particularly be achieved through equal access to natural and financial resources, women's and girls' access to education, health and good nutrition, and women's enhanced participation in decision making.
31. In 2011, CFS endorsed policy recommendations on 'Gender, Food Security and Nutrition' calling Member States and all stakeholders to take concrete actions to improve women's meaningful participation in decision making processes and ensure that women have equal access to health, education, land, water and other natural resources, including by enacting gender sensitive legislation. The recommendations are of direct relevance to the achievement of targets under SDG1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 17.

#### **vii. Develop decent work and empower youth**

32. In many countries and regions with higher rates of poverty and hunger, more than half of the population is currently under 25, with the majority of these young people living in rural areas and settlements, even as migration to cities expands. Access to new technologies, the provision of adequate skills and training (agricultural, financial, and entrepreneurial), complemented by the transmission of knowledge of traditional practices can empower youth to drive solutions to poverty eradication and promote long-term prosperity in rural areas.

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<sup>52</sup> See FAO, IFAD, WFP, [State of Food Insecurity \(SOFI\) 2015 report, In brief](#)

<sup>53</sup> FAO, [State Of Food and Agriculture \(SOFA\) report](#) 2011

33. Productive employment and decent work through improved working conditions, adequate living wages, training, access to resources and tools are essential to foster sustainable economic prosperity. CFS products call for policies and investments aimed at promoting decent work for all with particular attention to the agri-food sector. Recommendations call for creating new jobs by fostering entrepreneurship and equal access to market opportunities both on-farm and off-farm, and ensuring working conditions are consistent with the obligations included in the relevant instruments ratified by each state, of direct relevance to achieve SDG 1, 2, 5, 9, and 17.
34. In 2015, a background document with case studies illustrating examples of initiatives was compiled to support a special event aimed at 'Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition'. This discussion led to the identification of gaps in engaging with youth and potential policy implications for achieving food security and nutrition<sup>54</sup>.

**viii. Promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture**

35. Fisheries and aquaculture, as a primary source of protein and essential nutrients (lipids, vitamins and minerals), and as a provider of income and livelihoods, make an important contribution to food security and nutrition and the reduction of non-communicable diseases. Between 660 and 820 million people (workers and their families) are estimated to depend totally or partly on fisheries, aquaculture and related industries as a source of income, and many aquaculture ventures are considered small-scale, often family-based activities<sup>55</sup>.
36. The policy recommendations 'Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition' build upon the findings of the related HLPE report and were endorsed in 2014. They address: fish consumption in diets, food safety, over capacity and over-fishing, loss and waste along the fish-value chain, climate change adaptation strategies, the specific contribution and requirements of small-scale fisheries, fish trade, social protection and labour rights, and the gender dimension of fisheries. They provide guidance on how sustainable fisheries and aquaculture can become an integral part of national food security and nutrition strategies, policies, programmes and investment plans, and are directly relevant to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17.

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<sup>54</sup> [Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition](#), CFS, 2015

<sup>55</sup> HLPE, 2014. [Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition](#)



## Annex 1: CFS Reference documents

### 1. CFS endorsed policy products

Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (2015)

#### Main CFS products

- Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security - (VGGT 2012)
- Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI 2014)
- Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (CFS-FFA 2015)

#### Other Policy recommendations

- Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)
- Price volatility and food security (CFS 37: 2011)
- How to increase food security and smallholder sensitive investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)
- Food security and climate change (CFS 39: 2012)
- Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012)
- Biofuels and food security (CFS 40: 2013)
- Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40: 2013)
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)
- Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)
- Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)
- Connecting Smallholders to Markets (CFS 43, 2016)
- Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)

### 2. HLPE independent reports

- HLPE Report #1 Price volatility and food security (CFS 37: 2011)
- HLPE Report #2 Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)
- HLPE Report #3 Food security and climate change (CFS 39: 2012)
- HLPE Report #4 Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012)
- HLPE Report #5 Biofuels and food security (CFS 40: 2013)
- HLPE Report #6 Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40: 2013)
- HLPE Report #7 Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)
- HLPE Report #8 Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)
- HLPE Report #9 Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)
- HLPE Report #10 Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)
- HLPE Notes on Critical and Emerging Issues, 2014 and 2017
- HLPE Steering Committee contribution to SDG2 review

### 3. Compilation of experiences resulting from thematic lessons learned events

- Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition (CFS 42)
- Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT) - Summary and key elements (CFS 43)
- Outcomes 'From Agreement to Action: learning from the first voluntary national reviews in the HLPF' (CFS 43)

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