



Contribution to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2020

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)¹

The vision of the Committee on World Food Security is to be the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner in support of country led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. CFS will strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. CFS represents a unique, innovative multistakeholder platform for enhanced policy and institutional coherence. The unique features of the reformed CFS include expanded participation rules and a specific science-policy interface. The CFS inclusive policy making processes ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, are heard in the food and agriculture policy dialogue. The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) provides independent evidence-based reports to inform and support policy convergence.

Within the CFS framework, inclusiveness is not considered an end in itself but rather a means for the Committee to better deliver on its roles as a UN intergovernmental Committee involved in the global governance body of food security and nutrition. In CFS, all multistakeholder consultations feed into the CFS Plenary, where Member countries remain the ultimate decision makers, as well as principal actors in the attainment of food security and nutrition for all.

CFS contributes to advancing the 2030 Agenda as a global multi-stakeholder Committee through its policy outcomes, which constitute ready available tools for countries to advance food security and nutrition with a focus on the most vulnerable. Though voluntary in nature, CFS policies are developed through an inclusive, participatory process which contributes to their value. The full list of CFS reference documents is included in the Annex.

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

CFS is alarmed by the current trends showing that the world is far from being on track to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and meet SDG2 targets by 2030. For the fourth consecutive year, evidence by the 2019

¹ CFS receives core support from each of the three Rome-based UN Agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP). In 2019-20 Voluntary contributions have also been received from: European Commission, France, Germany, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates.

State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WHO and WFP continues to signal a rise on world hunger and a reversal of trends after a prolonged decline. The absolute number of people in the world affected by undernourishment, or chronic food deprivation, is estimated to have increased to over 820 million in 2018.

At its 46th Plenary session in October 2019, the Committee endorsed a Multi-Year Programme of Work (2020-2023) which contains the following thematic work-streams: Food systems and nutrition; Agroecological and other innovative approaches; Gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition; Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems; Data collection and analysis tools; and, Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition. The Committee's programme of work provides a comprehensive framework for accelerating progress towards meeting SDG-2 targets by 2030, and will continue to be supported by the scientific input of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), whose synthesis report "Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030" due to be released in June 2020 will offer a comprehensive analytic overview of what CFS has contributed, to date, and what it aims to achieve in the coming "Decade of Action" to reach the SDG goals and targets.

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

A Zero Hunger vision, guided by the *Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security* (VGRtF)² is critical in national efforts to reverse the negative trends. This calls for both short and longer term interventions (a "Twin-track" approach") to address poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition and their causes. The VGRtF provide an overall framework for achieving food security and nutrition objectives. They call for the realization of the right to adequate food to be the main objective of food security policies, programmes, strategies and legislation. 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. Ensuring women's and girls' rights, gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition is the most effective tool to eliminate gender-based discriminations.

Smallholder agriculture plays a key role for SDG2 and the 2030 Agenda

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. 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 can significantly reduce the number of hungry people in the world. 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).

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

² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-y7937e.pdf>

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, malnutrition and suffering, and medium to long-term actions to build resilience, avoid impoverishment, and address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition. 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.

Secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests

The eradication of hunger and poverty, and environmental sustainability, depend 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.

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. As stated in the VGGT, States should provide appropriate recognition and protection of the legitimate tenure rights of indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems. 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.

Invest responsibly in agriculture and food systems (2017 CFS contribution to the HLPF, para 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 focused on the rural poor. 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.

Annex: CFS Reference documents

<p>1. CFS endorsed policy guidance and recommendations</p> <p>CFS Policy Guidance</p> <p>Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (2004)</p> <p>Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition – the repository of all CFS policy work</p> <p>Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGTs 2012)</p> <p>Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI 2014)</p> <p>Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (CFS-FFA 2015)</p> <p>CFS Policy Recommendations</p> <p>Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition (CFS 44, 2017)</p> <p>Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: What roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)</p> <p>Connecting Smallholders to Markets (CFS 43, 2016)</p> <p>Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)</p> <p>Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)</p> <p>Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)</p> <p>Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40, 2013)</p> <p>Biofuels and food security (CFS 40, 2013)</p> <p>Social protection for food security (CFS 3, 2012)</p> <p>Food security and climate change (CFS 39, 2012)</p> <p>Gender, food security and nutrition (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>How to increase food security and smallholder sensitive investments in agriculture (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>Price volatility and food security (CFS 37, 2011)</p>	<p>2. HLPE independent reports</p> <p>HLPE Report #14 Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition (CFS47, 2019)</p> <p>HLPE Report #13 Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda (CFS 45, 2018)</p> <p>HLPE Report #12 Nutrition and Food Systems (CFS 44, 2017)</p> <p>HLPE Report #11 Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition (CFS 44, 2017)</p> <p>HLPE Report #10 Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: What roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)</p> <p>HLPE Report #9 Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)</p> <p>HLPE Report #8 Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)</p> <p>HLPE Report #7 Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)</p> <p>HLPE Report #6 Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40,2013)</p> <p>HLPE Report #5 Biofuels and food security (CFS 40, 2013)</p> <p>HLPE Report #4 Social protection for food security (CFS 39, 2012)</p> <p>HLPE Report #3 Food security and climate change (CFS 39, 2012)</p> <p>HLPE Report #2 Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>HLPE Report #1 Price volatility and food security (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>HLPE Note on Critical and Emerging Issues: 2014 and 2017</p> <p>HLPE Steering Committee contribution to SDG2 review</p> <p>3. Compilation of experiences resulting from thematic lessons learned events</p> <p>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 (VGGTs) Summary and key elements (CFS 43, 2016)</p> <p>Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of</p>
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[national food security – Summary and key elements \(CFS 45, 2018\)](#)