



CFS INPUTS TO THE 2022 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)

Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

CFS Chairperson's Summary¹

I - Proposed key messages for inclusion in the 2022 HLPF Ministerial Declaration

- **The CFS is a unique platform** where the world's Governments, civil society organizations, international organizations, businesses and experts come together and engage in dialogue on global food policy convergence. Importantly, it is notable that the Committee prioritizes the right to food. *(Source: ECOSOC President @CFS-49, October 2021)*
- **COVID-19 has had severe and lasting impacts on food security and nutrition, on the ability to lead healthy lives and on the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, particularly of the most vulnerable.** There are as many as 161 million more people facing hunger in 2020 than in 2019; due to lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security, adding up to 30 million more people than in a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred. *(Source: CFS 49/Report, para 10 b)*
- **The pandemic has revealed and exacerbated existing structural risks, fragilities, inequalities, and injustices in our food systems,** as well as the continuous impact of conflicts, diseases, poverty, economic downturns and climate change. The multidimensional and multilevel nature of the crisis and the possibility of recurrent pandemic point to the need for continued attention and multilateral coordination. *(Source: CFS49/Report para 12 f)* It has shown that agriculture and food systems are embedded in, and interact with, wider environmental and human-made systems (such as economies, ecosystems, and landscapes). *(Source: CFS Policy recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches, para 6)*
- **To prevent and reduce negative impacts to food systems as a result of a crisis or pandemic, governments at local, subnational and national levels have a leading role in collaboration with private sector, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders** to support small and family farmers and small and medium enterprises, and to ensure food supply chains and food systems continue to function, the rights and health of all people with particular focus on food system workers are protected, the most vulnerable have access to social protection programmes, and

¹ This Chairperson's Summary is the result of a consultative process with the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group, supported by the Vice-Chair in the role of Rapporteur.

that humanitarian assistance and food safety are prioritized. (Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, para 12*)

- **Recovering from the pandemic offers an opportunity to advance the 2030 Agenda through more inclusive and sustainable of food systems, integrating sustainability in its three dimensions throughout agriculture and food systems. This entails adopting context-appropriate transition pathways, towards sustainable agriculture and food systems** that, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs: i) are **inclusive and equitable**, enhancing the livelihoods of farmers and food system workers, and respect human rights; ii) **provide healthy diets accessible and nutrition for all**; iii) are **resilient, diversified, support climate change adaptation and mitigation, conserve biodiversity**, ensuring the sustainable management and use of ecosystems, natural resources, water and biodiversity, and minimizing food loss and waste, (Source:) including through agroecological and other innovative approaches. (Sources: *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, para 15*; *CFS Policy recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches, para 6*)
- **The Committee calls for a systemic and holistic approach to food systems transformation and encourages that it be done in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with, and dependent on, national context and capacities.** (Source: *CFS 49/Report, paras 11 and 12*)
- **The Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)**, which consolidates all relevant recommendations agreed by the CFS and is **annually approved by CFS Plenary**, provides an overarching framework and a single reference document with practical guidance on core recommendations for food security and nutrition strategies, policies and actions for catalysing coherent action at the global, regional and country levels. (Source: *Global Strategic Framework, Section 1.2, p.4*)

II - CFS assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “leaving no one behind” against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic

(Source: *CFS 49/Report, para 10 b*) At its [49th session](#), under agenda item II on “The [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#) 2021, its policy implications and the role of CFS in the context of COVID-19”, the Committee expressed deep concern over:

- i. The estimated 720 to 811 million people facing hunger in 2020, as many as 161 million more than in 2019;
- ii. The 660 million people who may still be facing hunger in 2030, in part due to lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security, adding up to 30 million more people than in a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred;
- iii. The nearly 2.37 billion people without access to adequate food in 2020, representing an increase of 320 million people in just one year;
- iv. The estimated 3 billion people unable to afford a healthy diet and the associated higher levels of moderate or severe food insecurity;

- v. The millions of children under 5 years of age who were affected by stunting (149.2 million), wasting (45.4 million) or overweight (38.9 million);
- vi. The increasing gender gap in the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A comprehensive and in-depth review of the main trends affecting food systems that have resulted from COVID-19, as well as an analysis of the pandemic's implications for the various dimensions of food security is provided in the Issues Paper prepared by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (CFS HLPE) in March 2020. The latest version of the Issues Paper, updated in September 2021, is included in the Annex, stressing and recalling that its content was not negotiated by CFS members and stakeholders and therefore cannot be considered multilaterally agreed.

III – CFS deliberations on recovering from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for “bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path” while seeking to “realize the human rights of all”. Agriculture² and food systems are deeply intertwined with economies, cultures, societies, health, food security and nutrition, climate, biodiversity and the environment, and hence both impact and are uniquely placed to contribute to all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (Annex II) developed by CFS in 2021, support countries in their efforts to eradicate all forms of hunger and malnutrition through a food systems policy approach. The Guidelines include a broad array of policy-specific recommendations aimed at reducing policy fragmentation between relevant sectors, with a special emphasis on food, agriculture and nutrition, while addressing social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Additionally as a significant contribution toward the implementation of the 2030 agenda, CFS developed and endorsed Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition (see Annex). They provide guidance to governments and other stakeholders in strengthening agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. The Policy Recommendations underline that there is no single approach for achieving food security and nutrition. Further deliberations on recovering from the pandemic were also made by CFS at its 49th session in October 2021, where the Committee: (*Source: CFS 49/Report, paras 11 and 12*)

- took note that the SOFI report underlines that food system transformation is required to address the problem of millions of people that are unable to afford healthy diets;
- called for a systemic and holistic approach to food systems transformation and encouraged that it be done in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with, and dependent on, national context and capacities;
- Took note of the following comments by Members and Participants:

² Throughout this document, agriculture refers to crop and livestock production, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry.

- a) The call for global solidarity, multilateralism and cooperation as the world's greatest assets to set it back on track to achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2);
- b) The need to build on the momentum created by the UN Food Systems Summit to bolster efforts towards ending food insecurity and malnutrition;
- c) The need to focus on the nexus between integrated food systems, food security, poverty, inequalities, trade, climate change, water, sustainable agriculture and on the role of women, youth, and data to maximize the impact of actions across all 17 SDGs;
- d) The consistent support to CFS as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to identify common pathways to exit the food crisis and to ensure food security and nutrition for all;
- e) The relevance of the six recommended pathways from the SOFI report, as appropriate, for the transformation of food systems and achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;

IV - Concrete recommendations from CFS on areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the implementation of SDGs 4,5,14,15,17

The HLPF is encouraged to consider the urgent need for governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to make use of CFS evidence-based policy guidelines and recommendations, as appropriate. In addition to contributing to ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, they support the achievement of various SDGs in an integrated way.

While voluntary in nature, CFS policy guidance instruments are the result of inclusive processes that 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. In CFS, all multi-stakeholder 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.

With reference to SDG4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), the following policy recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

- 1) Strengthen agricultural knowledge, information and innovation systems by enabling that research, extension/ dissemination and education/ capacity building to be integrated in an inclusive, participatory, bottom-up and problem-oriented manner in order to find holistic solutions to food system challenges based on agroecological and other innovative approaches, while not discouraging research and adoption of existing technologies and practices that contribute positively to sustainable development; (*Source: Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 4a*)
- 2) Encourage explicit coverage of achieving sustainable agriculture and food systems in curricula of educational institutions at all levels, and integrate hands-on, experiential learning; (*Source: Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 4i*)

- 3) Promote nutrition education including through the implementation of agroecological and other innovative approaches as part of a range of activities to support healthy diets, in line with recommendation 3.5.1.h of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition; *(Source: Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 4i)*
- 4) Implement comprehensive school and pre-school food and nutrition policies, review education curricula to incorporate nutrition and sustainability principles and sustainable practices, involve communities, especially local communities including, where possible, small-scale food producers and workers and their organizations, in promoting and creating healthy food environments and healthy diets through sustainable food systems in schools, kindergartens and other childcare facilities, and support school health and nutrition services; *(Source: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 353.c)*
- 5) Support the education of all food system actors to prioritize the reduction of food loss and waste. Actions could include awareness campaigns at national, regional and global levels, food date labelling, and monitoring of food loss and waste; *(Source: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.5.1.i)*
- 6) Use science and evidence-based as well as cultural, traditional and ancestral knowledge resources to promote and support education and knowledge of healthy diets, sustainable food systems, nutrition, physical activity, diversified production systems, food loss and waste prevention, intrahousehold food distribution, food safety, optimal breastfeeding and, where needed, complementary feeding, taking into consideration cultural and social norms and adapting to different audiences and contexts, including those of indigenous peoples with their voluntary consent on the sharing of their own knowledge as well as participating in broader knowledge and education. Safeguards for the identification and management of potential conflicts of interest should be put in place;*(Source: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.5.2.a)*
- 7) Protect and promote the knowledge that indigenous peoples and local communities have with regard to local traditions, ancestral customs and methods of sustainably producing food, preparing, and preserving local and traditional food that has nutritional and environmental benefits, promotes food safety, and improves livelihoods and enhances social conditions; *(Source: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 352.c)*
- 8) Support the horizontal sharing of knowledge and experiences building on existing producers' organizations and networks, including processes designed specifically by and for women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities; *(Source: Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 4h)*
- 9) Institute nutrition education curricula for students on the areas of food studies including food technology, health and agriculture during their training; *(Source: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.5.3.a)*
- 10) Youth empowerment and engagement. Promote strategies, policies and investments aiming at strengthening education and capacity building programmes for youth³, enabling their autonomy, decision-making and empowerment, increasing their access to decent work opportunities including in rural areas, living wages and social protection, and innovative practices as well protecting them from hazardous and inappropriate work, as ways to stimulate their roles as

³ CFS is developing Policy recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems to be finalized in October 2022.

change agents towards sustainable food systems for current and future generations; (Source: *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 48.f*)

With reference to SDG5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), CFS is in the process of developing Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition to be finalized in October 2022. Meanwhile, the following policy recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

- 1) Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of women working in agriculture, including the livestock sector; (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What roles for livestock? 3a*)
- 2) Strengthen policies, programmes and actions that eliminate structural barriers to address root causes of gender inequality, in particular by considering that laws and policies to support inter alia equal access to natural resources, finance and public services, respecting and protecting women's knowledge, as well as eliminating all forms of violence, including gender based violence and discrimination against women, and promoting women's empowerment⁴; (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 1m*)
- 3) Promote the empowerment of women, particularly small-scale food producers and family farmers, and their organizations, by supporting collective action, negotiation and leadership skills, to increase access to and equity in the control over land and natural resources, according to national legislation. Increase access to, inter alia, education, appropriate extension and financial services, methodologies and technologies that are adequate for women, youth and elders, and full participation in related policy processes; (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 5e*)
- 4) Ensure equal opportunities and promote equal participation between women and men in policy decision-making, supporting women especially in rural context, and ensuring gender equality in leadership roles in decision making bodies – parliaments, ministries and local authorities at district and community levels; foster strategies to engage with men and boys to support women and girls in nutrition as a joint responsibility; (Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.6.1.a*)
- 5) Promote gender equality and create the necessary conditions for women to fully realize their potential, in line with national legislation and universally agreed human rights instruments. Measures to achieve this should support the optimal combination and reconciliation of family and work life, including through economic empowerment of women, social protection programmes, including among others child and family support payments, and parental leave, establishment of minimum wages, reduction of the gender pay gap, and quality job and pensions as well as redistribution of unpaid care work. (Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.6.2.a*)

⁴ As appropriate, in line with the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and taking into account in particular its General Recommendation 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women, which was underscored by CFS 44.

With reference to SDG14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), the following policy recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

- 1) Encourage and promote responsible agricultural investment, and support food producers in the adoption of sustainable production practices and in the production of diverse food that contributes to healthy diets, while ensuring a decent income, livelihoods and resilience for fishers, farmers, particularly smallholders and/or family farms, and farm workers. This should include supporting and encouraging sustainable crop production practices, livestock, agroforestry, animal and fishery systems (including artisanal fisheries and aquaculture); *(Source: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.2.3.b)*
- 2) Promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies and management and design climate change adaptation strategies for food security and nutrition; *(Source: Policy Recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition – Section B)*
- 3) Integrate food security and nutrition concerns into fisheries and aquaculture related policies and programmes. *(Source: Policy Recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition – Section H)*

With reference to SDG15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss), the following policy recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

- 1) Strengthen policy instruments and coherence for the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and support the important past, present and future contributions of producers and researchers for the development, conservation and improvement of biodiversity, taking into account, as appropriate, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the recommendations of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, (for those states which have ratified those Treaties); *(Source: Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 3d)*
- 2) Promote, based on agroecological and other innovative approaches, alternatives to chemical pesticides and the greater integration of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Promote the removal of highly hazardous pesticides, in line with recommendation 7.5 of the WHO/FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and depending on specific context and national capacities; *(Source: Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 3i)*
- 3) Govern territories and landscapes at appropriate levels and in an inclusive way, with particular attention to people in vulnerable situations, so as to respond to local needs. This includes enhancing the provision of ecosystem services and managing trade-offs between them, protecting biodiversity rich habitats, and responding to the local impacts of global emergencies; in particular by supporting social innovation and strengthening inclusive public bodies, such as local food policy councils and multi-stakeholder landscape and watershed management platforms; *(Source: Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 3m)*

- 4) Recognize the need to strengthen the contribution of forests and trees, within landscape mosaics, in the provision of fundamental ecosystem services to support agricultural production and restore land productivity. Sustainable agriculture, food security and improved nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests. Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy, sustainable and productive forest and tree ecosystems. *(Source: Policy Recommendations on Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition - introduction)*

With reference to SDG17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development), the following policy recommendations are highlighted as relevant:

1. States, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, all relevant non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders should promote the strengthening of partnerships and coordinated action, including programmes and capacity development efforts, with a view to strengthening the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security; *(Source: Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the national food security, para 14)*
2. Development partners, intergovernmental organizations, including the Rome-based Agencies, and regional organizations, private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders are encouraged to support, within their existing resources and mandates, efforts by governments to implement the VGFSyN. Such support could include research and technical cooperation, financial and humanitarian assistance, the provision of evidence-based policy advice, institutional capacity development, development of monitoring frameworks, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences, and assistance in developing national and regional policies. Actions could be taken to improve partners' capacity to design, manage and participate in multistakeholder partnerships, with robust safeguards for the identification and management of potential conflicts of interest, to ensure transparency and accountability and promote good governance for effective results. Moreover, UN interagency coordination mechanisms dealing with various aspects of food systems and nutrition are encouraged to harmonize their work and to leverage and support the uptake of the VGFSyN at country level upon the request of member states. *(Source: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, para 69);*
3. Governments, intergovernmental organizations and development partners, across sectors at all levels, should work to enable healthy diets and improved nutrition through sustainable food systems, strengthened policy and legal frameworks and institutional capacities that address the multiple causes and consequences of malnutrition in all its forms and food-related economic, social and environmental challenges. This coordination should establish and/or strengthen multisectoral, multilevel and multistakeholder mechanisms that oversee the design and implementation of evidence- and science-based, context specific policies, strategies, and interventions respecting cultural diversity that contribute to improved nutrition outcomes at national, sub-national and local levels. *(Source: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, 3.1.2a)*

Additionally, the report by the CFS HLPE on [Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda](#) is highlighted as a valuable input to this year's High Level Political Forum.

Annex: CFS selected Reference documents

<p>1. CFS agreed policy guidelines and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition (2021)</u>• <u>Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (2021)</u>• <u>Policy recommendations on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition (2017)</u>• <u>Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (2016)</u>• <u>Policy recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition (2014)</u>• <u>Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (2014)</u>• <u>Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the national food security (2004)</u>	<p>2. Independent reports by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Issues Paper (3rd edition): Impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition: developing effective policy responses to address the hunger and malnutrition pandemic</u>• <u>Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda</u>
--	---