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Main decisions, outcomes and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith a report on the main decisions, outcomes and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security.**

* [A/80/50](#).

** The report is being issued without formal editing.



Report on the main decisions, outcomes and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Introduction

1. This report responds to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [decision 2011/217](#), in which the Council invited the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to transmit to ECOSOC every year a report on the main decisions, policy recommendations, and the results achieved by the Committee in the area of food security and nutrition, in accordance with its roles and vision. More information regarding the roles and vision of the Committee can be found in documents [A/66/76-E/2011/102](#) and [A/65/73-E/2010/51](#). More recently, the Committee re-affirmed its commitment to these roles and vision as described in document [CFS 2018/45/3](#), and endorsed at CFS 45 in October 2018.

2. This report describes the main outcomes and decisions taken by the Fifty-second Session of CFS held from 21 to 25 October 2024, where relevant, and provides updates on follow-up actions. The Final Report of the Session is available at [CFS52/Report](#).

Main decisions, recommendations and results

A. Strengthening coordinated policy responses to the food crisis – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024

3. The Committee discussed the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2024 report jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). In light of its findings, the Committee expressed deep concern over the current global food security crisis, with an estimated global prevalence of undernourishment of 9.1 percent - between 713 and 757 million people - in 2023 that has persisted at nearly the same level for three consecutive years after having risen sharply in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Going beyond hunger, expressed deep concern over the estimated 28.9 percent of the global population - 2.33 billion people - who were moderately or severely food insecure in 2023, with low-income countries having the largest percentage of the population that is unable to afford a healthy diet.

4. Moreover, during the plenary session, the Committee:

- a) emphasized the need for a common definition and understanding of financing for food security and nutrition, as an important first step towards sustainably increasing the financing flows needed to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition and ensuring access to healthy diets for all, as financing and financial inclusion are key means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Committee also called on leveraging the convening power of the CFS in advancing a shared understanding of financing for food security and nutrition and its mapping of available innovative financing, including fostering synergies, for food security and nutrition, in line with the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food;

- b) recalled that in conflict areas there exists an obligation under International Humanitarian Law on the protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population and the prohibition to use starvation of civilians as a method of warfare;
- c) stressed the need to refrain from using food and water as weapons of war in conflict areas, expressed the need for reliable, sustained, sufficient and unhindered access of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip and in other conflict areas, including but not limited to water, food, medical supplies and energy, and stressed the role of FAO, IFAD and WFP, in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and relevant bodies, to assess and address within their respective mandates, the impact of the conflict on food security, nutrition and agriculture in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip;
- d) emphasized the role of CFS within the areas of competence in monitoring and analyzing the impacts of wars and conflicts, including in Ukraine, on global food security and agri-food systems under the mandate of CFS;
- e) underscored the critical food security situations in other conflict areas, including Haiti, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen and further underscored that Human Rights obligations and International Humanitarian Law must be respected at all times;
- f) also recalled the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) and its relevant application, including in the context of the humanitarian-peace-development nexus, and in the important technical role of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) in assessing and addressing, within their mandates and expertise, the impact of all ongoing conflicts on food security and nutrition, while noting Members' interventions on this matter and calls for strengthened awareness, ownership and use of the CFS-FFA;
- g) underlined the importance of keeping open the trade of food and agriculture inputs and products in order to avoid the negative impact on global food security, while also preventing trade distortions and unjustified trade barriers. In this respect, the Committee recalled paragraph 24 of the Pact for the Future, which reiterated that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries taking note of Members' interventions on this matter;
- h) expressed deep concern that escalating debt burdens faced by a number of developing countries may create constraints on the resources needed to invest and finance food security and nutrition.

5. Additionally, the Committee heard panel discussions presenting international initiatives such as the creation of a Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, under Brazil's G20 Presidency, to support and accelerate efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, and encouraged broad participation of all stakeholders in this global initiative, taking into consideration CFS's role on providing guidance and inputs to Members on matters related to the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food and the eradication of hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

6. The Committee also invited stakeholders to engage in the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris in March 2025, underlining that progress in nutrition remains uneven,

with 2.8 billion people unable to afford healthy diets and high prevalence of the double burden of malnutrition (undernutrition and overnutrition).

7. The Chairperson's report on "Collaborative Governance for Coordinated Policy Responses" was acknowledged and broad engagement in this CFS workstream was encouraged with a view to achieving the objectives of identifying signs of emerging food crises and timely actions, thereby contributing to achieving the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food and also promoting the transformation of food systems.

B. Global Thematic Event on the Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security

8. A Global Thematic Event was organized at CFS 52 to take stock of the use and application of the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security" (Right to Food Guidelines). Coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the Guidelines, it reflected on the progress achieved, highlighted best practices and lessons learned, while also identifying remaining challenges and paving the way for further action towards the realization of the Right to Adequate Food.

9. The event was informed by a background document, which underlined the importance of the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food and reiterated the objective of the Right to Food Guidelines aimed at guiding countries and other stakeholders in developing and adopting a wide range of measures with a human rights-based approach to food security. The document reflected how the Right to Food Guidelines have been utilized at global, national and local levels with coordinated efforts applied by CFS Members, Participants, Observers, the CFS Secretariat and other CFS stakeholders, and with the critical support of the RBAs.

10. The Global Thematic Event highlighted that 20 years after their adoption, the Right to Food Guidelines remain an essential tool to support CFS members in promoting the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food, encouraged additional efforts to promote their broad and systemic dissemination, use and application by all stakeholders.

11. The Committee recognized the need to strengthen collaboration between the RBAs and wider UN system, including the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), in order to support the implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines and encouraged Members to integrate the Right to Adequate Food, including nutrition, into their domestic policies, international cooperation efforts and development assistance and underlined the importance of monitoring progress on a national basis, and promoting accountability towards the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food.

C. Endorsement of the Action Plan to Strengthen the Uptake of CFS Policy Products

12. The Committee endorsed the "Action Plan to Strengthen the Uptake of CFS Policy Products" which presents a roadmap with actions for different CFS stakeholders that are responsible and accountable for promoting the uptake of CFS policy products at all levels.

13. This exercise is based on the recognition that strengthening the uptake of CFS policy products is a collective responsibility that requires joint efforts as well as close

collaboration and coordination between relevant stakeholders. While Member States have the primary responsibility for promoting the CFS and the use and application of its policy products, this needs to be the result of a collaboration with and strong engagement and participation by the different CFS stakeholders, such as the UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs).

14. The objective is to promote action and collaborative efforts that support the integration and adaptation of CFS policy programmes into national and regional legislations, technical programmes and policy frameworks.

15. In this regard, the Committee called on all CFS stakeholders to take concrete steps in implementing the recommendations included in the Action Plan, including tracking outcomes and raising resources for its implementation, in line with its nature as a guide and starting point for a living process that draws on different experiences, practices and actions.

D. CFS strategic direction towards 2030

16. The Committee endorsed the Update of the Rolling Section of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2024-2027 and noted that its full implementation will be contingent upon sufficient financial and human resources, taking into consideration a manageable workload.

17. The main MYPoW activities envisaged for the year 2025 are as follows:

Under Strategic Function 1 - PLATFORM (Leverage the convening power as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to discuss the FSN situation and coordinate collective action at all levels):

- a) High Level Forum on Climate, Biodiversity and the Right to Food;
- b) High Level Forum on strengthening responsible investment and financing for FSN;
- c) Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation - Biannual meetings.

Under Strategic Function 2 - POLICY: (Develop voluntary global policy guidance for policy convergence and coherence to achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food):

- a) Policy convergence process on Strengthening Urban and Peri-urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition in the context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation.

Under Strategic Function 3 - UPTAKE: (Foster the uptake, follow-up and review, and sharing of experiences and best practices on the use and application of CFS products at all levels):

- a) Increasing awareness, ownership and use of CFS policy outcomes at all levels - Implementation of agreed Action Plan;
- b) Global Thematic Event (GTE) on the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises at CFS 53 in 2025 to monitor progress the use and application of this CFS Framework, as part of the 10th anniversary from its endorsement.

E. Endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition

18. A relevant outcome of the plenary session was the endorsement of the “CFS Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition” as an action-oriented, inter-governmentally agreed, voluntary and non-binding, global policy framework in support of country-led efforts towards improving food security and nutrition policies and actions.

19. These policy recommendations provide guidance on developing and strengthening policies that explicitly focus on reducing inequalities and addressing their immediate and systemic drivers to achieve food security and nutrition for all, while transforming agriculture and food systems, leaving no one behind. In working towards this goal, the policy recommendations highlight the importance of grounding actions that address the drivers of FSN inequalities in a non-discriminatory, transparent, ethical and inclusive approach, consistent with human rights, as well as the need to take into account national, sub-national and local contexts.

20. Moreover, the Committee:

- a) called on all CFS stakeholders to support and promote the dissemination, use, and application of the Policy Recommendations at all levels within their constituencies, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms;
- b) encouraged all stakeholders to share commitments and document lessons learned from using the Policy Recommendations, and to share progress and experiences with the Committee in order to assess their continued relevance, effectiveness and impact - in line with the standard monitoring practice of the Committee - which is based on the principles of participation, transparency and accountability;
- c) recommended that FAO, IFAD and WFP, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations, continue assisting Members in strengthening their capacity to apply the Policy Recommendations, addressing the immediate and systemic drivers of inequalities in support of the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security;
- d) decided to request the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), through the ECOSOC, to encourage wide dissemination and implementation of the Policy Recommendations to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies, consistent with Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15, of the General Rules of the Organization, Rule X, paragraph 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and paragraph 21 of the CFS Reform Document.

F. Policy convergence process on Strengthening Urban and Peri-urban Food Systems

21. The work of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) to prepare the Report on Strengthening Urban and Peri-urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition in the context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation was acknowledged with appreciation by the Committee.

22. Following the launch of this CFS HLPE-FSN Report in July 2024, this session was organized with the objective of presenting an overview of the main findings and

recommendations of the CFS HLPE-FSN Report, focusing on implications for the upcoming CFS policy convergence process.

23. During the session the Committee stressed:

- a) the importance of recognizing that addressing urban and peri-urban food insecurity and malnutrition requires building upon all relevant CFS policy products and workstreams and considering the interaction between food systems and other systems such as housing, water, energy, sanitation, waste and transport;
- b) the importance of nutrition, food safety, climate and biodiversity to ensure that food systems are sustainable, resilient and capable of providing safe, balanced and healthy diets for all;
- c) the need to address the complex nature of urban and peri-urban food systems, which involves multi-level, multilateral and multi-actor governance processes within and beyond national borders;
- d) the call for taking the diversity of urban and peri-urban situations into account, recognizing that contexts may vary based on income, connectivity, size, governance structures and capacities.

G. Promoting Decent Work in Agriculture and Food Systems

24. With the overarching objective of eliminating hunger and malnutrition, ensuring food security and nutrition for all, and contributing to the progressive realization of the right to food, the Committee agreed to hold a CFS Plenary discussion in October 2024 on Promoting Decent Work in Agriculture and Food Systems to highlight the key role of decent work in agriculture and food systems from a Right to Food perspective.

25. The session emphasized the importance of agriculture and food systems in creating decent and productive jobs, as well as the need to harness this potential to achieve sustainable development and advance the Right to Adequate Food. It was informed by a background document that outlined the synergies and complementarities between the CFS and International Labour Organization (ILO) policy instruments related to promoting decent work in the agri-food sector.

26. The panel discussion and interactive floor interventions underscored the importance of CFS's convening role in fostering dialogue among diverse stakeholders. The Committee recognized that policy coordination and cross-sectoral policy coherence are key to achieving the shared goal of realizing the 2030 Agenda, including SDG 8, which calls for the promotion of "sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all." It was also emphasized that CFS stakeholders should further strengthen efforts to design policies and programs that promote decent work in agriculture and food systems.

H. Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of National Food Security

27. The Committee welcomed the Forum discussion on the uptake of the "CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition" (Voluntary Guidelines) to mobilize political commitments by governments and all relevant stakeholders for further

promotion, implementation, and application of these Voluntary Guidelines in support of the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food for all, while emphasizing that gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is one of the central elements of the mandate of the CFS.

28. After a panel discussion, featuring three alternating panels including invited government experts, UN system representatives, and CFS mechanisms, which was followed by numerous interventions from members and participants, the Committee:

- a) acknowledged plans and ideas concerning the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines, recognized their role as a useful tool in the hands of policy makers and development partners, and highlighted the importance of different actors and coordination mechanisms in promoting their uptake;
- b) looked forward to the celebration in 2025 of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and welcomed the resolution adopted by the UNGA to declare 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer, as initiatives that can create an enabling environment for the promotion, the uptake and use of the Voluntary Guidelines.

29. The Committee took note of the following comments on:

- a) the importance of integrating and adapting the Voluntary Guidelines into national legislation, strategies, policies, programmes, action plans and frameworks, including at regional level, and the need to develop practical tools and capacity-building initiatives to promote the use of the Voluntary Guidelines, particularly for national practitioners and other stakeholders;
- b) the importance of promoting advocacy awareness-raising campaigns as well as mobilizing financial and technical support for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines, including from FAO, IFAD, WFP and other relevant UN Agencies;
- c) The Committee also noted the close linkages between the Voluntary Guidelines and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted thirty years ago and encouraged strategic engagement between the CFS and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to consider the possible inclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines in the Beijing +30 Action Agenda to be agreed on by Member States.

I. Other matters

30. The Committee proposed that the Fifty-third session of CFS be held from 20 to 24 October 2025 at FAO headquarters in Rome, as indicated in the Calendar of the FAO/IFAD/WFP Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2024–2025. The exact dates will be communicated by the Director-General of FAO and the Chairperson of the Committee, in line with Rule VII of the CFS Rules of Procedure.

31. The Committee took note of the following changes among Bureau Members and Alternates of the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Group: Cuba and the Dominican Republic will serve as Bureau Members and Argentina and Brazil as Alternates.

J. Report of the Fifty-second session of the Committee on World Food Security (21-25 October 2024)

32. The full Final Report of the Fifty-second Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was held in hybrid modality from 21 to 25 October 2024, can be found at the following link:

https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/bodies/CFS_52/CFS52_REP/NQ517_CFS_2024_52_Final_Report_en.pdf

33. Further information on the Session and all activities of the Committee can be located at: <https://www.fao.org/cfs/en/>
