1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comprises not only the SDGs, it also includes the means to achieve them, with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) adopted during the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The AAAA recognizes access to adequate and nutritious food, agriculture and rural development together with ending hunger as one broad area where more and better investments, underpinned by adequate financing, are needed and could yield cross-cutting benefits for sustainable development. Furthermore, it explicitly recognizes the role of the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS RAI).

2. To achieve the ambitious goals set in the 2030 Agenda, multi-stakeholder partnerships are expected to play an increasingly relevant role in its implementation, as fully recognised in SDG 17 “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development”. Partnerships are important vehicles for mobilising and sharing experiences, technology, knowledge, and resources to successfully implement the SDGs, especially in relation to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda imply due attention to the means of implementation, including how to mobilize the resources needed. Moreover, effective multi-stakeholder partnerships need to embrace innovative, sustainable and scalable approaches for advancing 2030 Agenda in an integrated manner.

3. Partnerships are multi-stakeholder in nature, bringing together actors from national governments, humanitarian and development organizations, UN agencies and bodies, donors, foundations, civil society and private sector at both national and international levels in any combination. In this sense, multi-stakeholder partnerships offer promising and innovative means to increase the effectiveness of development finance in the context of the 2030 Agenda, while recognizing the key role of multi-year financing for effective partnerships.

4. While many types of partnerships exist and various of them have been well described, there has been no systemic and comparative exercise in drawing lessons from the variety of multi-sectoral partnerships that are (or have been) operational in connection to FSN. It should be made clear which types offer the most potential towards supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and which ones are the most promising in terms of innovative financing and access to resources, technology transfer, and capacity building.

5. The HLPE could fill this gap and take stock of new evidence, analyse trends, identify new opportunities and challenges and provide recommendations that could result in evidence based policy guidance, in connection to partnerships in relation to mobilizing means of implementation for food security and nutrition. The HLPE could also examine the potential for enhancing the role and
effectiveness of multi-stakeholder partnerships as a modality for scaling up innovation, resources and action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, with special attention to food security and nutrition related goals.

6. The report should look at the effectiveness of such partnerships in reaching food security and nutrition objectives. The report should further explore how partners can enhance their cooperation through establishing fully functioning partnerships in which multiple stakeholders work together for shared objectives, looking especially at:

- CFS-like partnerships/platforms at country level to address food security and nutrition issues and help countries implement CFS products;
- Public-Private-Producers Partnerships for sustainable agriculture;
- Partnerships involving the UN, such as UN-led partnerships and multi-stakeholder partnerships including UN agencies for food security and nutrition purposes;
- Partnerships with multilateral development finance institutions, including those involved in Private Sector Investment Operations, in particular on how to improve medium and small agribusinesses’ access to finance;
- Partnerships involving farmer organisations, farmer associations and cooperatives;
- Partnerships involving (philanthropic) foundations for food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture;
- Partnerships for sustainable and responsible consumption for food security and improved nutrition;
- National and regional platforms aiming to foster food security and nutrition;
- South-South cooperation;
- FSN Partnerships that particularly aim at 'leaving no one behind', with particular attention to relevant areas, such as social protection and safety nets, emergency preparedness and response and capacity strengthening.

7. This topic would build on the work of the AAAA and include special attention to the means of implementation to achieve food security and nutrition from various sources and through various partnership arrangements. This may include: domestic public and private resources; external private resources (both profit and non-profit); and external public resources from Official Development Assistance (ODA), and other resources beyond finance as described in AAAA.

8. This HLPE report could contribute to the design of policies, initiatives and investments required to successfully finance and implement the 2030 Agenda with particular attention to food security and nutrition and by leveraging multi-stakeholder partnerships at global, regional and national levels. It could lead to recommendations in connection with the various opportunities and challenges associated with the various forms of multi-sectoral partnerships.

9. By commissioning this report, CFS would be contributing to the global effort to implement the SDGs by linking SDGs related to FSN (SDG2 and others) with SDG17, and by drawing attention to the types of partnerships that can enhance the amount and effectiveness of finance for FSN. However, the lessons and recommendations could go well beyond and benefit the implementation of Agenda 2030 at large.
10. CFS is uniquely positioned to address this issue, because of its mandate, its ability to bridge evidence-based discussions with a multi-stakeholder political and practice-informed discussion. Research into partnerships requires a multi-disciplinary approach for which the HLPE is particularly suitable given its capacity to cover a mix of expertise ranging from agricultural economics, finance, governance and sociology to rural development, from all regions in the world, as required for this study.

11. There has been substantial research and a high number of country, regional and global initiatives focused on partnerships and financing mechanisms, particularly to inform the discussions leading to Agenda 2030. There is substantial evidence base to draw on.