



## CFS contribution to the 2017 High Level Political Forum review

*“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”*

In depth-review of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, 17

### **The Committee on World Food Security**

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)’s vision 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. The 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. The unique features of the reformed CFS include expanded participation rules and a specific science-policy interface. 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<sup>1</sup> policy dialogue. The High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition provides independent evidence-based reports to inform and support policy discussions.

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<sup>1</sup>The term “agriculture” includes crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.

## 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>2</sup>; this includes 156 million stunted children<sup>3</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>4</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>5</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>6</sup> in rural areas, where the majority of extreme poor and chronically food insecure live.

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<sup>2</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>3</sup> UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, September 2016 edition

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF/WHO/World Bank. Joint Malnutrition Estimates. 2012

<sup>5</sup> Global Report on Food Crises 2017, March 2017

<sup>6</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>7</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>8</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

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<sup>7</sup> HLPE. 2013. [Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security](#); HLPE. 21012. [Social protection for food security](#).

<sup>8</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?](#)

programmes and projects, including research programmes, as well as partnerships created to improve local food security and nutrition. Effective national governance includes efficient, 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>9</sup>) to poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition and their causes<sup>10</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 catalyzing rural transformations that ensure sustainable livelihoods and human dignity, particularly in countries where smallholder agriculture is the main provider of food and employment<sup>11</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>12</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

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<sup>9</sup> Declaration of the 2009 World Summit on Food Security

<sup>10</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>11</sup> HLPE. 2013. [Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security](#).

<sup>12</sup> FAO, [State Of Food and Agriculture report](#) 2011

accountability, and support countries in national policy making and achieving the Sustainable 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>13</sup>.

*(d) Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity<sup>14</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>15</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>16</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,

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<sup>13</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>14</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>15</sup> [Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030](#). Washington, DC.

<sup>16</sup> HLPE. 2016. [Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?](#)

including livestock systems. In 2016, CFS endorsed policy recommendations<sup>17</sup> on the role of livestock in sustainable agricultural development.

16. **The likely negative effects of climate change** on food security and livelihoods are alarming<sup>18</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>19</sup> now include agriculture and other land uses, emphasizing the relationship between climate change and food security<sup>20</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>21</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.

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<sup>17</sup> *ibid*

<sup>18</sup> According to IPCC 2014, climate change could increase the risk of hunger and malnutrition by up to 20 percent by 2050;

<sup>19</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>20</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>21</sup> CFS 43 Special Event “[From Agreement to Action: learning from the first voluntary national reviews in the HLPF](#)”

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*

**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>22</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.

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<sup>22</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?](#)



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**

24. The most recent projections suggest that approximately half of the global poor now live in states characterized by conflict and violence<sup>23</sup>; and 93 per cent of people living in extreme poverty are living in countries deemed as fragile, environmentally vulnerable, or both<sup>24</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>25</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.

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<sup>23</sup> [Joint FAO/WFP update for the United Nations Security Council](#) (July 2016)

<sup>24</sup> [Position paper The World Humanitarian Summit, 2016](#)

<sup>25</sup> HLPE. 2013. [Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security](#)

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 of social security<sup>26</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>27</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

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<sup>26</sup> See FAO, IFAD, WFP, [State of Food Insecurity \(SOFI\) 2015 report, In brief](#)

<sup>27</sup> FAO, [State Of Food and Agriculture \(SOFA\) report](#) 2011

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.
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>28</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>29</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>28</sup> [Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition](#), CFS, 2015

<sup>29</sup> HLPE, 2014. [Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition](#).

## Annex 1: CFS Reference documents

<h3>1. CFS endorsed policy products</h3> <p>Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (2015)</p> <p>Main CFS products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security - (VGGT 2012)</li><li>• Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI 2014)</li><li>• Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (CFS-FFA 2015)</li></ul> <p>Other Policy recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)</li><li>• Price volatility and food security (CFS 37: 2011)</li><li>• How to increase food security and smallholder sensitive investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)</li><li>• Food security and climate change (CFS 39: 2012)</li><li>• Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012)</li><li>• Biofuels and food security (CFS 40: 2013)</li><li>• Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40: 2013)</li><li>• Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)</li><li>• Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)</li><li>• Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)</li><li>• Connecting Smallholders to Markets (CFS 43, 2016)</li><li>• Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)</li></ul>	<h3>2. HLPE independent reports</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HLPE Report #1 Price volatility and food security (CFS 37: 2011)</li><li>• HLPE Report #2 Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)</li><li>• HLPE Report #3 Food security and climate change (CFS 39: 2012)</li><li>• HLPE Report #4 Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012)</li><li>• HLPE Report #5 Biofuels and food security (CFS 40: 2013)</li><li>• HLPE Report #6 Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40: 2013)</li><li>• HLPE Report #7 Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)</li><li>• HLPE Report #8 Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)</li><li>• HLPE Report #9 Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)</li><li>• HLPE Report #10 Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)</li><li>• HLPE Note Critical and Emerging Issues, 2014</li><li>• HLPE Steering Committee contribution to SDG2 review</li></ul> <h3>3. Compilation of experiences resulting from thematic lessons learned events</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition (CFS 42)</li><li>• 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)</li><li>• Outcomes 'From Agreement to Action: learning from the first voluntary national reviews in the HLPF' (CFS 43)</li></ul>
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<http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/en/>

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