



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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CFS contribution to the 2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development global review

“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”

In depth-review of SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 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 agriculture¹ 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.

¹The term “agriculture” includes crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.



Key messages

Suggested chapeau:

[Introductory sentence on FSN situation]

Sustainable and resilient societies require both the achievement of food security and improved nutrition for this generation, and sustainable use of natural resources to ensure next generations' food security as well. It becomes all the more important to ensure that the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national security is achieved through coherent and integrated policies which simultaneously address all dimensions of sustainability. Fostering the use and application at country level of CFS integrated policy instruments is critical in national efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda.

1. **Societies will only be sustainable and resilient when food security is ensured for all**
2. **The resilience of communities is increasingly affected by conflicts and climate shocks, exacerbating the risk of protracted crises.**
3. **Sustainable food systems must be at the heart of sustainable and resilient societies.**
4. **Inclusive policy processes and effective partnerships are key to achieve the 2030 Agenda.**

(a) Assessing the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level

[Findings SOFI 2017 and other reports]

(b) The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges

Progress in reducing the numbers of the poor and hungry, until recently, had been encouraging. However, the global economic growth that contributed to this progress was not always accompanied by similar gains in the other two dimensions of sustainable development, with social and environmental progress too often lagging behind. Loss and degradation of natural resources has continued, creating tensions around increasing competition for scarce resources – including, water. The exclusion of vulnerable groups – for example, smallholder farmers, landless, urban slum dwellers, informal workers and unemployed youth – from the benefits of growth has contributed to their inability to invest in the resilience of their livelihoods. This failure to achieve a balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development – specially called for under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – has created the conditions for the instability and conflict which today risks reversing recent improvements in food security and nutrition globally. It also raises serious questions around the environmental footprint of food production and whether the environmental and climatic conditions of the future will allow subsequent generations to enjoy food security and adequate nutrition.

- Need to urgently address those affected by crises by meeting their immediate needs and helping rebuild their livelihoods, as well as accelerate efforts towards global economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Gaps identified:

1. Environmental footprint of food is too high – particularly water
2. Food systems need to deliver better nutritional outcomes, particularly for vulnerable groups
3. Exposure of traditionally vulnerable groups to changing climatic and environmental conditions undermines resilience; (a.o. leading to the need to improve articulation and coordination between long-term resilience building and short-term emergency response).

4. The food security implications of rapid urbanization and rural transformation need to be better understood.

(c) Valuable lessons learned on Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

[Drawn from case studies urbanization]

[Draw from the nutrition and food systems HLPE report & FFA]

[CFS 44 lesson-sharing session]

HLPE report and policy recommendations on sustainable agriculture and livestock

HLPE report and policy recommendations on forestry

(d) Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

1. Anticipating the inter-connected future of urbanization and rural transformation

Increased rural-urban interlinkages present multiple challenges and opportunities for achieving sustainable and resilient societies and food security and nutrition. Cities can act as a powerful driver of change and innovation in both urban and rural areas, but also pose new challenges for the future related to the capacity to feed huge cities, the competition for natural resources (including water) between rural and urban areas, or the impact of evolving food environments and consumer behaviors and lifestyles on our food systems.

2. Conflicts, migrations and food security and nutrition

The combination of conflicts, natural disasters, shocks and crises is one of the main drivers of international migration and internal displacement. A better understanding is needed of how the food systems operate in times and zones of conflicts and the consequences for food security and nutrition of millions of people affected.

3. Inequalities, vulnerability, marginalized groups and food security and nutrition

Inequalities in income and access to resources is one of the main causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, weak resilience and unsustainable production and consumption. Progress towards sustainable development, improved food security and nutrition, and peace building all require stepped up efforts to reduce these inequalities.

4. Impacts of trade on food security and nutrition

Local and global trade affect all four pillars of food security and nutrition, both positively and negatively. The role of international trade in the realization of food security and nutrition has been the source of long-standing controversies among governments, civil society organizations and academics, and calls for a greater focus of policies and policy governance in the future, supported by a more thorough understanding of the complex relationships between trade and food security and nutrition.

5. Agroecology for food security and nutrition in a context of uncertainty and change

Agroecology is described simultaneously as a science, a set of practices and a social movement oriented towards the sustainable management of agriculture and food systems. While principles of agroecology are well established, there are many questions on how to put them into practice at a larger scale. To what extent do agro-ecological production systems contribute to improving resource efficiency, strengthening resilience, and securing social equity/responsibility in agriculture and food systems?

6. Agrobiodiversity, genetic resources and modern breeding for FSN

Conservation of agrobiodiversity and genetic resources and their sustainable use is fundamental to improve resource efficiency and strengthen resilience of agro-ecosystems to shocks and changes. To address this challenge, innovative institutional, legal and technical solutions, adapted to local contexts, taking into consideration traditional knowledge, need to be strengthened and developed.

7. Food safety and emerging diseases

Food safety, food-borne diseases, and antimicrobial resistance are emerging challenges for the next decades, at the global level, and call for a better understanding of the impacts of different food systems on food safety and food-borne diseases.

8. From technology promises towards knowledge for food security and nutrition

Science, technology and innovation (STI) are key to improve resource efficiency and strengthen resilience of agricultural and food systems. The challenge is not only how to develop new technologies, but also how to make the adapted and accessible including for small scale producers and for the most food insecure people, through appropriate innovative practices and institutional arrangements.

9. Strengthening governance of food systems for an improved food security and nutrition

Agriculture and food systems are likely to undergo radical transformations in the future decades. Ensuring that the various drivers of these transformations contribute to more sustainable and inclusive outcomes for all in the context of the 2030 Agenda and in the perspective of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, requires improved governance. This calls for a better articulation of different governance systems at different scales and across different sectors.

(e) Areas where political guidance by the high-level political forum is required

[Awaiting feedback from HLPF 2017]

(f) Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress towards sustainable and resilient societies

1. Strengthen societies' resilience to deal with food shocks

- Conflicts and **protracted crises**: addressing both immediate food needs, and developing longer-term actions which help build resilient livelihoods and food systems, and address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition for both rural and urban communities.

[FFA on the importance of investing in resilient livelihoods, beyond immediate humanitarian assistance, particularly in protracted crises contexts]

- Adaptation to **climate change**: scale-up climate-resilient agriculture practices and food systems.

The adverse effects of climate change can pose serious threats to food security and nutrition, especially to small-scale food producers' lives and livelihoods. In 2012, CFS endorsed policy recommendations on "*food security and climate change*", in which it invites Member States and other stakeholders to integrate climate change concerns in food security and nutrition policies and to increase the resilience of vulnerable groups and food systems to climate change. Investment and international cooperation should be stepped up in support of national and local capacities to cope with climate-related challenges, for example by enhancing early warning systems, emergency preparedness, measures to address slow-onset events through integrated land-use policies, comprehensive risk assessment and management, and climate risk insurance, emphasizing adaptation to climate change as a major concern and objective for all farmers and food producers.

- Spread **social protection** systems linked to local food purchases

About 70% of the world's population still lack access to some form of social security. Designing and putting in place comprehensive nationally owned social protections systems that seek to address structural poverty and food insecurity is central to achieving the SDGs. CFS policy recommendations on "*Social protection for food security and nutrition*", endorsed in 2012, call for social protection systems to pursue a 'twin-track' strategy to maximize their positive impacts on food security, by providing essential assistance in the short-term and supporting livelihoods in the long-term².

- Increase resilience to **food price spikes and volatility**, strengthening early warning systems locally and globally.

Between 2003-2005 and 2009, the number of undernourished people in the world increased from about 848 million to 1023 million³, partially as a result of the 2007-2008 food price volatility crisis, which also triggered "hunger riots" in a number of affected countries. Price volatility has an immediate impact on food security because it affects household incomes and purchasing power, and can create further uncertainty throughout food systems, thus discouraging longer-term investments that can increase productivity and promote trade⁴. In 2011, CFS endorsed policy recommendations "*Price volatility and food security*" which a.o. called for the development or review of comprehensive national food security strategies, which establish policy coherence in respective sectors, including

² Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012)

³ SOFI reports

⁴ HLPE, 2011. Price volatility and food security. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome 2011.

national economic policies, to address food price volatility. The CFS also noted that a transparent and predictable international trade in food is crucial for reducing excessive price volatility. Furthermore, the CFS called for improved transparency, regulation and supervision of agricultural derivative markets, and for the development of risk management instruments, including for mitigating the impact of price shocks.

- **Connect smallholders to markets**, support diversified and resilient livelihoods and non-farm income sources.

[Economic and social benefits for smallholder food-producers and processors, environmental benefits for all – policy recommendations *Connecting smallholders to markets*]

2. Support pathways towards greater **sustainability** of food systems for rural and urban societies:

- Support agriculture and food system’s potential to mitigate the negative impacts of **climate change**

While one fifth of greenhouse gas emissions are currently generated by agriculture, forestry and land-use change, agriculture and food systems have the potential to make an important contribution to climate change mitigation by decoupling production increases from emission increases, sequestering under certain conditions carbon dioxide (recognizing forests’ unique potential to act as carbon sinks), reducing food losses and waste and fostering change in food consumption patterns⁵.

CFS policy recommendations “*Food security and climate change*” call for the development agricultural strategies that encourage farmer mitigation practices and increase international cooperation and public and private investment for research on climate change adaptation and mitigation in order to favor alignment with sustainable development and food security and nutrition.

- Support pathways towards **sustainable agricultural development (and livestock)**

[Improve resource efficiency; strengthen resilience, and improve social equity/responsibility outcomes. – CFS policy recommendations “*Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What role for livestock?*”]

- Strengthen **water governance** and natural resource management

The majority of the world’s food-insecure people live in regions where water scarcity and food insecurity are intimately linked. Limited access to water for both domestic and productive purposes, insufficient water quality and inadequate sanitation facilities, coupled with hydro-meteorological disasters such as droughts and floods, all affect food availability, access, stability, utilization and

⁵ State of Food and Agriculture Report 2016, Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

ultimately nutrition. In its policy recommendations “*Water for Food Security and nutrition*”, endorsed in 2015, the Committee encourages States and other relevant stakeholders to address challenges related to water’s contribution to food security and nutrition for resilient and sustainable societies, through both an ecosystem approach and a people-centered approach, and offers a number of recommendations, directly related to the achievement of a number of SDGs.

- Reduce **food loss and waste**, towards sustainable food systems

Food Losses and Waste (FLW) impact the sustainability and resilience of agricultural and food systems and their ability to ensure food security and nutrition for all for this generation and for future generations. States and other stakeholders have differentiated roles, and should encourage sustainable patterns of production and consumption, in accordance with national and international human and animal health regulations. CFS policy recommendations on “*Food loss and waste in the context of sustainable food systems*”, endorsed in 2014, provide guidance to governments and multistakeholders and call for [innovations to reduce FLW; infrastructure and other public goods and services (storage and processing facilities, reliable energy supply, transport) and improved access by food producers and consumers to markets (market information and product knowledge); regulatory frameworks to encourage private sector and consumers to reduce FLW; support small-scale food producers and processors and their organizations for better access to services to reduce FLW].

- Address trade-offs between food security and affordable energy for all through **biofuels**

[Influence on international agricultural commodity prices; distinguish between short-term and long-term impacts; encourage governments to seek coordination of their respective food security and energy security strategies; review biofuels policies according to a balanced science-based assessment of the opportunities and risks; integrate FS, smallholder and gender concerns in the design, monitoring and evaluation of R&D on biofuels; support use of sources of renewable energy and improved access to sustainable energy services, including among others in agri-food chains, according to each country’s specificities]

Addressing possible competition between biofuel crops and food crops and ensuring food security and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security should be priority concerns for all relevant stakeholders in biofuel development. The CFS policy recommendations “*Biofuels and food security and nutrition*” offer a number of recommendations to Members and stakeholders to guide priority setting and integrated policy programming, in direct link with the achievement of a number of SDGs.

- Ensure food security and nutrition for all in the context of **changing rural-urban dynamics**

[Increasing agricultural productivity and production in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable manner – *GSF* p.25]

[Policy recommendations from *Urbanization and Rural Transformation* document]



3. Enable **transformation** through inclusive policy and governance

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies is the responsibility of all stakeholders.

[Participatory policy processes at national, regional and global levels]

[Participatory implementation : multistakeholder partnerships]

- Secure responsible **tenure governance**

Weak governance adversely affects social stability, sustainable use of the environment, investment and economic growth. [GSF p.30]

- **Invest responsibly** in agriculture and food systems

[GSF section on *RAI Principles* ensuring economic, environmental and social benefits; GSF p.18]

- Promote **healthy and nutritious diets** in all countries

[Nutrition work]

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"> • Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security - (VGGT 2012) • Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI 2014) • Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (CFS-FFA 2015) <p>Other Policy recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011) • Price volatility and food security (CFS 37: 2011) • How to increase food security and smallholder sensitive investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011) • Food security and climate change (CFS 39: 2012) • Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012) • Biofuels and food security (CFS 40: 2013) • Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40: 2013) • Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014) • Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014) • Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015) • Connecting Smallholders to Markets (CFS 43, 2016) • Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016) 	<h3>2. HLPE independent reports</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLPE Report #1 Price volatility and food security (CFS 37: 2011) • HLPE Report #2 Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011) • HLPE Report #3 Food security and climate change (CFS 39: 2012) • HLPE Report #4 Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012) • HLPE Report #5 Biofuels and food security (CFS 40: 2013) • HLPE Report #6 Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40: 2013) • HLPE Report #7 Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014) • HLPE Report #8 Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014) • HLPE Report #9 Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015) • HLPE Report #10 Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016) • HLPE Notes on Critical and Emerging Issues, 2014 and 2017 • HLPE Steering Committee contribution to SDG2 review <h3>3. Compilation of experiences resulting from thematic lessons learned events</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition (CFS 42) • 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) • Outcomes 'From Agreement to Action: learning from the first voluntary national reviews in the HLPF' (CFS 43)
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