



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Zero-draft elaborated outline CFS contribution to the 2017 HLPF review 28 April 2017

“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”
In depth-review of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14

UPFRONT: One page key messages

1. Introduction: poverty, prosperity and food (in)security

[Section (a) of ECOSOC President’s template “An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level”]

Progress on global hunger reduction is too slow to reach zero hunger by 2030, while malnutrition in all its forms has increased.

In 2015, an estimated 793 million people, (10.8 percent of the global population) still lacked access to adequate amount of dietary intake¹, including 165 million stunted children. Hunger is particularly high and persistent in countries in protracted crisis. Two billion people are deficient in key vitamin and minerals, and 1.9 billion adults and 43 million children worldwide now suffer from overweight². In 2015, 702 million people or 9.6% of the world’s population were estimated to be living in extreme poverty³, most of whom are also food insecure; poverty rates in rural areas still stand well above those in urban areas in most regions⁴. While steady progress in combatting undernutrition and poverty was made in the last decade, current progress is far too slow to reach the zero hunger target

¹ FAO, IFAD and WFP, Monitoring Food Security and Nutrition in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Taking stock and looking ahead

² UNICEF/WHO/World Bank. Joint Malnutrition Estimates. 2012

³ World Bank projections, October 2015, including updated international poverty line of US \$1.90 a day

⁴ IFAD Rural Development Report 2016



by 2030⁵. The first to be affected are those already at risk of economic, social, environmental or cultural exclusion: billions of citizens who continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity.

[To add: further information of food insecurity.]

The poverty/hunger nexus interlinks with a wide range of SDGs

Hunger eradication is indivisible from the eradication of poverty in all its forms. While poverty is often the main direct cause of food insecurity and hunger, structural causes of hunger and malnutrition relate to governance, economic and production issues, demographic and social issues, climate and environmental issues⁶. “Leaving no one behind” will require specific and urgent attention to both short- and longer-term interventions to address poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, and their causes.

A key factor of success in reducing undernourishment is economic growth, but only when it is inclusive – providing opportunities for the poor, to build their assets and skills, and to improve their livelihoods⁷. Improvements in agricultural productivity of smallholders, new sources of investment in rural areas, and emerging market opportunities have generated benefits in terms of global progress in eradicating poverty and hunger. At the same time, persistent gaps and poor quality of rural infrastructure (SDG9), distortions in world agricultural markets (SDG2, in particular target 2.b), lack of capacity development opportunities, gender inequalities (SDG5), malnutrition and health issues (SDG3) and lack of social protection mechanisms (SDG1) continue to exclude many, particularly in rural areas, from potential benefits.

The Progressive realization of the Right to Food in the context of national food security implies the adoption of a holistic and comprehensive approach to hunger and poverty eradication. Such an approach entails, inter alia, direct and immediate measures to ensure access to adequate food as part of a social safety net; improve the livelihoods of the poor and hungry in a sustainable manner; the development of appropriate institutions, functioning markets, a conducive legal and regulatory framework; and access to employment, productive resources and appropriate services⁸.

National and international efforts and investments must be stepped up, which comprehensively address poverty and hunger, and promote the Progressive realization of the Right to Food in the context of national food security.

[To add: further links with other SDGs]

⁵ According to projections of FAO, IFAD, WFP, 2015 *Achieving Zero Hunger, the critical role of investments in social protection and agriculture*, around 650 million people will still suffer from hunger in 2030 following a “business as usual” scenario (no increase in investments)

⁶ CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, rev 2015, Chapter II, A “Structural causes of hunger and malnutrition”

⁷ SOFI 2015 In brief

⁸ VGRtF, 2.4



2. Key challenges ahead and CFS work in addressing them

[Section (b) of ECOSOC President's template "The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges"]

Today's world is fast changing. A number of trends and dynamics, such as climate change, population growth, increasing demand for agricultural products, urbanization, intensifying rural-urban linkages, migration, natural disasters, protracted crises, pressures on resource use and technological advances present both challenges and opportunities for food security, future prosperity and sustainable development.

Valuable lessons learned by the Committee on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity: [Section (c) of ECOSOC template : "Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity"]

The CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition draws a number of lessons from the results achieved over the last decades in the eradication of poverty and food security⁹. These relate to thematic issues, many addressed by CFS policy products and recommendations as well as "process" related lessons, pertaining to the **importance of inclusiveness and multi-stakeholder participation**:

- Effective systems of governance are needed at country level, involving stakeholders at all levels, and including efficient, accountable and transparent institutions and structures and decision-making processes to ensure peace and the rule of law, which are essential elements of a conducive business environment¹⁰.
- All appropriate stakeholders, in particular small-scale food producers and local communities, must be closely involved in the design, planning and implementation of programmes and projects, including research programmes¹¹.

The Committee also discussed, at its 2016 Plenary, experiences related to countries' efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Many of the collective lessons learned, from the experiences presented by eight countries^[1] and 4 stakeholder representatives^[2], are relevant to further progress on eradicating poverty and hunger. The key role played by high-level political leadership was high-lighted, as was the variety of existing approaches to create inclusive implementation and review processes. Integration of inclusive social, economic, food security,

⁹ CFS Global Strategic Framework (CFS GSF), Chapter II, Section B "Past experiences and lessons learned"

¹⁰ CFS GSF Chap II Section B b)

¹¹ CFS GSF Chap II Section B i)

[1] China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Finland, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland

[2] Civil Society Mechanism, Private Sector Mechanism, Rome based Agencies, Local and Regional governments



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agriculture, health policies can be reached through a diversity of country-specific approaches. Human rights were identified as an important entry-point to achieve progress; and multi-level collaboration (local, regional, national) is an effective way to bridge some gaps.

Common challenges were also identified, linked to financing and resource mobilization, to regional disparities (including between rural and urban areas), and communicating the 2030 Agenda to national civil society.

CFS Integrated tools to accelerate progress in poverty and hunger eradication

[Section (f) of ECOSOC template “Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication”]

CFS would like to draw specific attention to the following themes and CFS products that will be key in accelerating progress in poverty eradication and hunger reduction:

- **Secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests, is essential to end rural hunger and poverty**

The eradication of hunger and poverty, and the sustainable use of the environment, depend in large measures on how people, communities and others gain access to land, fisheries and forests. 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.

While supporting efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty by advocating for policies and laws that ensure that tenure right holders earn an adequate standard of living from the land they acquire, the full implementation of the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT), would improve governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, for the benefit of all, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people. Its goals of 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 development¹², are directly relevant to targets of SDG 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

[Possibly to add: further explanation VGGT]

- **Responsible public and private investment must be increased in agriculture, food systems and rural areas to find inclusive solutions to hunger and malnutrition.**

To end poverty hunger by 2030, a much higher level of resources must be mobilized towards hunger eradication than a “business as usual” scenario. To achieve zero-hunger, considerably more resources (both public and private) are required to fund both additional investment in social protection, and additional targeted pro-poor investments in productive activities, particularly in rural

¹² VGGT, 2012, Objectives, 1.1

areas¹³. *Responsible* investment is essential for enhancing food security and nutrition and supporting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

Recognizing the vital role of smallholders in agriculture and food systems, it is particularly important that their capacity to invest be strengthened and secured¹⁴. Investing in agriculture and food systems can produce multiplier effects for complementary sectors, such as services or manufacturing industries (SDG9), thus further contributing to food security and nutrition and overall economic development¹⁵. Responsible investment makes a significant contribution to enhancing sustainable livelihoods (SDG1), in particular for smallholders (SDG2), and members of marginalized and vulnerable groups (SDG10), creating decent work for all agricultural and food workers and eliminating the worst forms of child labour (SDG8), eradicating poverty (SDG1), fostering social and gender equality (SDG5), promoting social participation and inclusiveness (SDG16), increasing economic growth, and therefore achieving sustainable development¹⁶.

The CFS-Principles for Responsible investment in agriculture and food systems (CFS-RAI) address the core elements of what makes investment in agriculture and food systems responsible, identify the key stakeholders and their respective roles and responsibilities, and serve as a framework to guide the actions of all stakeholders engaged in agriculture and food systems by defining Principles which can promote much needed responsible investment, enhance livelihoods, and guard against and mitigate risks to food security and nutrition. CFS-RAI are related to the achievement of SDG 1,3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17 targets.

[Possibly to add: further explanation RAI]

- **Countries in protracted crises deserve special attention**

Nearly two-thirds of countries in fragility failed to meet the MDG goal of halving poverty by 2015. These countries are characterized by recurrent natural disasters or conflict and an insufficient institutional capacity to respond to the crises or natural disasters. Countries in protracted crisis are often not recovering from one-off phenomena. They often face continuous or recurring and prolonged cycles of disaster that pose threats not only to peoples' lives but also their livelihoods. The short-term emergency and relief assistance normally provided to those countries by the international community has so far not been able to break this crisis cycle. Protracted crises call for specially designed and targeted assistance that addresses the immediate need to save lives and also the underlying drivers of food insecurity as well as disaster risk reduction plans. The particular impact on women and children, and the importance of gender perspective in crises responses, should also be given greater attention¹⁷, while nutritional needs, given the severity of undernutrition during protracted crises, also require a special focus especially for at risk populations, the vulnerable and marginalized groups.

¹³ e.g. FAO, IFAD, WFP, 2015 *Achieving Zero Hunger, the critical role of investments in social protection and agriculture*; IISD and IFPRI, *Ending Hunger: What would it cost?* October 2016

¹⁴ RAI, para 4

¹⁵ RAI, para 6

¹⁶ RAI, para 1

¹⁷ GSF, Chapter IV, Section I

Humanitarian assistance helps meet acute needs, in order to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain and protect human dignity. Resilience boosts the capacity to absorb, prepare for, and prevent humanitarian disasters, crises and long-term stresses. It also contributes to the adaptation and transformation of livelihoods and food systems, progressing a long a pathway out of the protracted crises situation. The CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) represents the first global consensus on how to mitigate the threat to food security and nutrition during protracted crises by bridging humanitarian and development assistance. The CFS-FFA directly contributes to the achievement of SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 12, 15, 16.

[Possibly to add: further explanation FFA]

- **Supporting smallholder access to markets is key to address persisting rural poverty.**

Smallholders are crucially important in global food production, and yet they constitute an overwhelming share of the world's poor and food insecure/malnourished population. Globally, more than 80% of smallholders operate in local or domestic food markets, in which most of the food consumed in the world transits. These diverse, interrelated markets, linked to local, national and/or regional food systems, can provide employment and contribute to local, social and economic development. But a variety of challenges can prevent smallholders from securing markets access and eliciting benefits to support healthy livelihoods. The CFS has developed Recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets that address these challenges. Policies aimed at better connecting smallholders to markets (investing in smallholder agriculture, market infrastructure, youth, production system diversification and nutrition, procurement programmes, etc) are key to increase their incomes (SDG 2), to impact rural livelihoods (SDG1, SDG8), promote a sustainable and diversified production (SDG3, SDG 12) and yield high benefits for poverty eradication (SDG1).

- **Social protection policies and programs have proven critical in eradicating poverty and hunger**

The expansion of social protection across the world has been critical for progress towards the international hunger targets. More than 100 countries have some form of cash transfer programme that focuses on promoting food security and nutrition, health, and education, particularly of children. School-feeding programmes, the most widespread type of social protection programme, have been implemented in more than 130 countries. However, about 70% of the world's population still lack access to some form of social security: the coverage of such programmes must be considerably expanded¹⁸.

Social protection instruments that address poverty and vulnerability through social assistance, social insurance and efforts at social inclusion¹⁹, such as safety nets – provided primarily in the form of cash or food-based transfers – can maximize impact on resilience, food security and nutrition (SDG2), and contribute to shared prosperity by raising levels of child nutrition (SDG2, 3) and improving cognitive development, school attainments (SDG4) and future labour productivity (SDG8), thereby enhancing earning potential (SDG10) and promoting development. By preventing the depletion of assets and

¹⁸ See FAO, IFAD, WFP, *State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) report*, In brief

¹⁹ GSF, Chapter IV, Section J

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. They can, finally, be implemented in ways that also contribute to promoting local production and markets²⁰. The CFS Policy recommendations 'Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition (2012) support countries to put in place or strengthen comprehensive, nationally-owned, context-sensitive social protection systems for food security and nutrition.

- **Empowering rural women is one of the most effective and sustainable ways to increase agricultural productivity, household resilience and improved nutrition.**

Women comprise 43% of the agriculture labour force in developing countries. Yet despite their crucial role in agriculture, women still face constraints that reduce their productivity and access to markets, thereby limiting their contributions to agricultural development, economic growth and the well-being 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%. This could reduce the overall number of hungry people in the world by 12% – 17%.

Advancing women's rights, equal access to natural and financial resources, education and good nutrition, and women's enhanced participation in economic decision making can help maximize the key role that women already play for food security, nutrition, family incomes and household resilience, as well as overall agricultural production and productivity (CFS policy recommendations Gender, Food Security and Nutrition, 2011).

[To add expansion of cross-cutting role gender; reference to gender in various CFS products.]

- **Decent rural employment, especially for youth, through access to innovation and technologies, is crucial to engage and empower rural youth.**

Decent work through improved working conditions, adequate living wages, training, access to resources and tools is essential to encourage young people to utilize their skills and energy in food systems and the rural non-farm economy in the decades ahead, contributing to inclusive rural prosperity and reducing migration pressures on cities. As such, youth must be a priority target group, and access to new technologies, combined with traditional knowledge and training, can empower them to drive inclusive rural transformations.

[To be added: messages from Youth event and case-studies]

3. Emerging issues on food security and nutrition

[Section (d) of ECOSOC template: "Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity"]

- **Inclusive and sustainable rural transformation should contribute to elimination of poverty and sustainable food systems**

²⁰ GSF, Chapter IV, Section A, c)

Rural transformations are taking place worldwide, as part of broader structural transformations, which are largely determined by the outcomes of agriculture and the rural non-farm economy. Inclusive rural transformation is central for sustainable progress in reducing and eliminating poverty (SDG1). However, *inclusive* rural transformation is not automatic and can only result from deliberate policy and investment measures, for example related to land tenure and access to productive assets (SDG1 and 2), gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG5), connecting smallholders to markets (SDG 8 and 9), improved nutrition (SDG3) and climate change (SDG13).

Inclusive rural transformation, by prioritizing on and off-farm livelihoods, the creation of decent employment, especially for young people, by empowering women, expanding social protection programmes, focusing on improved nutrition for all, and addressing rural/urban inequalities, simultaneously benefit poverty and hunger eradication. The CFS is actively working on “*Urbanisation and rural transformation*”, drawing lessons from across the world in order to share knowledge on experiences and effective policy approaches.

- **Climate change: sustainable agriculture is a core part of the solution**

Climate change is increasingly perceived as one of the greatest challenges for food security as it reduces the productivity of the majority of existing food systems and harms the livelihoods of those already vulnerable to food insecurity. Climate change could increase the risk of hunger and malnutrition by up to 20 percent by 2050²¹. With agricultural and land-use related activities being responsible for more than 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, the agricultural sector is both a major contributor to climate change, and is heavily impacted by its effects. There are important synergies between the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and SDG 2, and 94% of the NDCs released to this date include agriculture or land-use related activities. Climate action can positively impact on poverty and hunger eradication, particularly when it involves increased public and private investments in agriculture, enhanced rural capacity building, better risk management, and improved international cooperation around food security.

[To add: better explanation of the link between CFS and climate change work]

- **Addressing all forms of malnutrition can unlock human potential and impact on national growth.**

Malnutrition accounts for a loss of GDP of 11% in Africa and Asia. Healthy and sustainable diets will enable both individuals and nations to thrive economically, socially and environmentally. There is 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 percent²².

²¹ IPCC, 2014

²² GNR 2016



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Overall, food systems should be nourishing people, not only feed them. People who are well nourished live, learn and work, better, and contribute to achieving their societies' aspirations for inclusive economic growth, as well as to building more sustainable futures for themselves and their families. Addressing malnutrition in all its forms must become a priority, through integrated policies, and sound investment addressing food and health systems, gender equality, water and sanitation, education, social protection and governance. Healthy diets are increasingly linked with sustainable food production and biodiversity and are thus an entry point for a healthier planet and climate mitigation. The particular contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition, as a primary source of protein and essential nutrients, and as a provider of income and livelihoods, should be recognized (SDG14)²³.

The Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) offers a framework to governments to accelerate the development of integrated nutrition policies and programmes for sustainable impact at all levels. The CFS will continue its work on nutrition, which will contribute to the FAO-WHO led efforts to implement a work programme for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

- **Enhancing evidence-based policy making**

All CFS policy work builds on evidence. The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) was established in 2010 as the science-policy interface of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The HLPE aims to improve the robustness of policy making by providing independent, evidence-based analysis and advice at the request of CFS. The CFS has requested the following reports to be produced by the HLPE in the upcoming biennium:

- Report on 'Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition' (2017)
- Report on 'Nutrition and food systems' (2017)
- Note on 'Critical and Emerging Issues for food security and nutrition' (2017)
- Report on 'Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda' (2018)

4. Conclusion, including political guidance required from by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

[Section (e) of ECOSOC template: "Areas where political guidance by the high-level political forum is required"]

- Summary of Key messages
- Possible requests for political guidance by HLPF

²³ CFS Policy recommendations, 2014, *Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition*



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Annex : List of HLPE reports

HLPE Report #10 Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)

HLPE Report #9 Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)

HLPE Report #8 Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)

HLPE Report #7 Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)

HLPE Report #6 Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40: 2013)

HLPE Report #5 Biofuels and food security (CFS 40: 2013)

HLPE Report #4 Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012)

HLPE Report #3 Food security and climate change (CFS 39: 2012)

HLPE Report #2 Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)

HLPE Report #1 Price volatility and food security (CFS 37: 2011)