

Terms of Reference to share experiences and good practices in applying CFS decisions and recommendations through organizing events at national, regional and global levels

1. Background

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) encourages stakeholders to share their experiences and good practices in applying CFS decisions and recommendations as a contribution to the CFS monitoring function. This includes within CFS Plenary sessions and through organizing events at national, regional and global levels. Increasing awareness of CFS decisions and recommendations requires the collective efforts of all CFS stakeholders.

These terms of reference (TORs) have been developed at the request of CFS in October 2015 (CFS 2015/42 Report). They will provide guidance to food security and nutrition (FSN) stakeholders at national, regional and global levels on sharing their lessons and good practices in implementing CFS decisions and recommendations. Specifically, they will serve as a framework for FSN stakeholders to contribute to CFS global thematic events that are planned to be organized within CFS Plenary sessions for taking stock of the use and application of CFS decisions and recommendations, starting with CFS major, strategic and catalytic products^{1,2} (see illustrative diagram at the end of the document). Contributions will be provided on a voluntary basis on the product selected by the Committee for the annual Plenary session.

The TORs will also contribute to the incremental development of the CFS innovative mechanism to monitor progress in achieving food security and nutrition, which is one of the roles of CFS defined in the CFS Reform Document to promote accountability and share good practices at all levels. The TORs will contribute to fulfilling this role by presenting an approach that could be used at national, regional and global levels to monitor progress in achieving their specific food security and nutrition objectives, leading to more accountability and improvement in programme delivery.

¹ As at March 2016, those are: Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (RtF); Global Strategic Framework for FSN (GSF); Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT); Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI); Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA).

² The Committee endorses the proposal to focus the CFS monitoring on the Committee's major, strategic and catalytic products (CFS 2013/40/8).

The approach could provide a useful contribution to country-led efforts for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as it is compatible with the principles defined in that Agenda³.

2. Objectives of the events

- Foster the adoption, adaptation and scaling up of good practices and learning from experiences in implementing CFS products;
- Monitor progress (qualitatively and quantitatively) in implementing CFS products at national, regional and global levels;
- Draw lessons to improve the relevance and effectiveness of CFS work, including for the achievement of FSN national goals;
- Increase awareness and understanding of CFS and CFS products.

3. Main expected results of the events

- Experiences and good practices in implementing CFS products are identified, shared and documented, including the factors that influenced the results and the constraints and challenges met;
- Progress in implementing CFS products is monitored and ways to achieve better results are identified;
- Lessons to improve the relevance and effectiveness of CFS work, including for the achievement of FSN national goals, are identified by participants and then shared with all FSN stakeholders;
- Participants are knowledgeable about CFS and CFS products.

4. Recommended approach for holding events at national, regional and global levels

The recommended approach promotes the principles defined in the CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) for monitoring and accountability systems. They should:

- Be human-rights based, with particular reference to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food;
- Make it possible for decision-makers to be accountable;
- Be participatory and include assessments that involve all stakeholders and beneficiaries, including the most vulnerable;
- Be simple, yet comprehensive, accurate, timely and understandable to all, with indicators disaggregated by sex, age, region, etc., that capture impact, process and expected outcomes;
- Not duplicate existing systems, but rather build upon and strengthen national statistical and analytical capacities.

The approach also takes into account CFS framework for monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations⁴. It is recognized that events are not sufficient for monitoring the implementation of CFS products but they are a starting point, based on the plenary decision at CFS 2015.

³ The principles include voluntary and state-led nature, national ownership, inclusiveness, use of existing platforms and data and evidence-based nature.

The event should be country-owned and country-led. National actors should be the main protagonists for organizing events at all levels, i.e. at national, regional and global levels, with possible support from the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) or other FSN stakeholders, on request. Regional representation should be taken into account when organizing events at global level. The framework for monitoring the implementation of CFS products (What? How? Who? How often?) will be established by countries as part of their own mechanism for monitoring and reporting progress towards their stated FSN objectives.

To the extent feasible and relevant, **the event should be organized in collaboration and partnership with existing relevant multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platforms at national, regional and global levels (“CFS-like” platforms), coordination mechanisms and initiatives for food security and nutrition at different levels,** avoiding the creation of new structures or duplicating existing mechanisms.

The event should be inclusive, involving the full range of stakeholders concerned with food security and nutrition at national, regional or global level, as appropriate (Governments represented by the main institutions dealing with food security and nutrition, i.e. Ministries of agriculture, health, social protection, etc., UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral donor organizations, regional and global organizations, civil society, private sector, academia, financial institutions), and the communities affected (or expected to be affected) by the implementation of CFS products. The autonomy and capacity of civil society to self-organize will be respected.

The event should ensure the active participation of the representatives of all groups of stakeholders - including the communities affected (or expected to be affected) by the implementation of CFS products, making sure that all voices are heard - and their involvement in the preparation of the event.

Monitoring should capture both qualitative and quantitative aspects of progress. The indicators to monitor progress should follow the principles established in GSF that are listed above for the monitoring mechanism. Monitoring should focus on successes in implementing CFS products and on the factors that influenced the results and the constraints and challenges met. To the extent feasible, the information provided should also include an estimate of the number of people, households and communities that have been positively affected by the application of the CFS product.

The event should be documented: a report of the event should be prepared, in consultation with representatives of all groups of stakeholders and shared widely, documenting the experiences and good practices (including the factors that influenced the results and the constraints and challenges met), the results of the monitoring on the implementation of CFS products, and the lessons to improve the relevance and effectiveness of CFS work.

5. Identification of good practices

The good practices that are identified and shared during the event should be consistent with the values promoted by CFS, as applicable, including:

⁴ Monitoring mechanisms should build on existing mechanisms at global, regional and national level. Key characteristics of monitoring mechanisms include: local ownership, rights-based, inclusiveness and multi-stakeholder participation, be grounded in multi-sectoral policy frameworks, ensure adequate country capacities and resources and include both qualitative and quantitative aspects (CFS 2013/40/8).

- **Inclusiveness and participation:** all main relevant actors were involved and participated in the decision-making processes related to the practice, including all those who have or could have been affected by the decisions;
- **Evidence-based analysis:** the effectiveness of the practice in contributing to the objectives of CFS products was analyzed on the basis of independent evidence;
- **Environmental, economic and social sustainability:** the practice contributed to achieving its specific objectives, without compromising the ability of addressing future needs;
- **Gender equality:** the practice promoted equal rights and participation for women and men and addressed gender inequalities;
- Focus on the **most vulnerable and marginalized people and groups:** The practice benefitted the most vulnerable and marginalized people and groups;
- **Multisectoral approach:** all main relevant sectors were consulted and involved in the implementation of the CFS product;
- **Resilience of livelihoods:** the practice contributed to building resilient livelihoods of households and communities to shocks and crises, including those related to climate change.

6. Organization of the global thematic sessions at CFS

Contributions to CFS global thematic events during CFS Plenary sessions will be compiled by the CFS Secretariat in a document made available for delegates during sessions. The global thematic sessions will be organized in consultation with the OEWG on monitoring, taking into account regional representation. The lessons learned from the CFS global thematic events will be made available to CFS stakeholders.