



# COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

***"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"***

**Rome, Italy, 9-13 October 2017**

**DRAFT REPORT**

## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Forty-fourth Session from 9 to 13 October 2017 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Session was attended by delegates from 116 Members of the Committee; 7 non-Member States of the Committee and by representatives from:

- 12 United Nations Agencies and Bodies;
- 112 Civil society organizations<sup>1</sup>;
- 3 International agricultural research organizations;
- 3 International and regional financial institutions;
- 62 Private sector associations and private philanthropic foundations<sup>2</sup>; and
- 58 Observers.

2. Four Ministers and two Vice-Ministers registered. The full list of Members, Participants and Observers is available as document CFS 2017/44/Inf.5 (<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cfs/cfs44/en/>)

3. The report contains the following appendices: Appendix A – Agenda of the Session; Appendix B – Membership of the Committee; Appendix C – List of Documents.

4. The Committee was informed that the European Union (EU) was participating in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.

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<sup>1</sup> Civil Society's participation was facilitated by the International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism (CSM). This figure includes 104 CSOs under the umbrella of the CSM.

<sup>2</sup> This figure includes 58 companies under the umbrella of the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM).

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5. The Session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, H.E. Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Sudan.
6. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable.
7. The Committee appointed a Drafting Committee composed of Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, and Sweden, as well as Mr Khaled El-Taweel (Egypt) as Chair of the Drafting Committee.

## **II. CFS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

8. Opening statements were delivered by a video message from the United Nations Secretary-General Mr António Guterres, followed by a statement by H.E. Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security; Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Mr Gilbert Huongbo, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Mr David Beasley, Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP); Mr Fabrizio Hochschild, UN Assistant-Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination and Mr Patrick Caron, Chairperson of the Steering Committee, High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE). The statements are available as CFS Information documents at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cfs/cfs44/en/>.
9. The Committee considered its engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to support countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The session opened with a keynote address by H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor, followed by a presentation by FAO of the new report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017 and a presentation by H.E. Ahmed Bin Ahmed Al-Maisary, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Yemen. These led to a discussion of the state of food security and nutrition in the world and on recent trends.
10. A session on lessons learned in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focused on countries' perspectives and experiences in putting in place government policies as well as private sector and civil society efforts to achieve the SDGs. The Committee reflected on its efforts to support global follow-up and review through its contributions to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
11. For agenda item II.b "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017", the Committee:
  - a) Welcomed the collaboration between FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO around the new State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report, and took note of its contribution to monitoring the food security and nutrition targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - b) Expressed concern that, for the first time since 2003, the number of chronically undernourished people in the world has increased, up to 815 million from 777 million in 2015, which, together with rising rates of overweight and obesity, means the world is not on track to achieve SDG 2 and other targets of the 2030 Agenda related to food security and nutrition;
  - c) Recognised that conflict, climate change and protracted crises are some of the main causes of the recent increase in food insecurity, drivers of situations of severe food crisis; and, in particular, that hunger and undernutrition are significantly worse where conflicts are prolonged, and institutional capacities are weak;
  - d) Called on all stakeholders, including governments and the UN system, to accelerate efforts to address the root causes of such devastation and terrible suffering, with famine declared in South Sudan in 2017 and threatening in North-Eastern Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen;

- e) Recognised that international action should address immediate needs and contribute to the recovery, sustainability and resilience of societies, including building and strengthening sustainable food systems; and
- f) Encouraged governments and all national and international stakeholders, in the framework of national and international laws, to use and apply CFS policy products, and in particular the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA).
12. For agenda item II.c “Lessons learned implementing the 2030 Agenda”, the Committee:
- a) Welcomed the lessons presented by volunteer countries on their national experiences in achieving the SDGs related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, and examples of successful country initiatives, as well as challenges encountered. In particular:
- i) Commended the leadership that countries are showing in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the readiness of Azerbaijan, Belgium, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Italy and Sweden, among the 43 Voluntary National Review countries in 2017, to discuss their experiences at CFS;
  - ii) Welcomed the steps taken by countries to reform their policies, aiming to improve the overall sustainability of their food systems and their ability to ensure national food security and nutrition through holistic approaches;
  - iii) Recognised the diversity of approaches to promote inclusive implementation and ownership of the SDGs within societies, including consultations, communication and outreach efforts, and establishment of inclusive institutions to oversee the implementation and review of policies from national to local levels;
  - iv) Noted that important challenges remain, such as:
    - addressing simultaneously all forms of malnutrition;
    - supporting small-scale food producers to overcome poverty and adopt more productive and sustainable practices;
    - improving the overall economic, social and environmental sustainability of the food systems; and
    - addressing regional and/or rural-urban inequalities and the lack of rural infrastructure.
  - v) Acknowledged the lessons shared by the volunteer reporting countries on the importance of political leadership at all levels, support for multistakeholder processes and effective partnerships, the importance of disaggregated data and monitoring, and the need for capacity development; and
  - vi) Renewed its call to all countries to apply policy frameworks such as the CFS products to achieve the SDGs.
13. For agenda item II.d “CFS and the 2030 Agenda: Reflections from HLPF 2017 and contributions to HLPF 2018, the Committee:
- a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on SDGs, presented by Mr Willem Olthof (EU), Chair of the OEWG on SDGs;
  - b) Noted the 2017 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) Ministerial Declaration which reiterates the crucial role that sustainable food systems can play in eradicating poverty and hunger, and which makes reference to key messages promoted by CFS and the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), inter alia, on tenure governance, responsible investment, sustaining rural and urban livelihoods, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, biodiversity, women’s empowerment and gender equality, addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable countries and communities requiring urgent humanitarian

- assistance, and raising the productivity of small-scale producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers;
- c) Reiterated its commitment to stepping up efforts to promote the use of CFS policy recommendations in all countries with a view to promoting national policy integration for greater impact;
  - d) Endorsed the document 2017/44/2 "CFS Contribution to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018 " as the basis for the contribution of CFS to the 2018 HLPF review "Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies"; and noted that it should be updated with the outcomes of CFS 44 discussions, including pending resolution of the paragraph on biofuels and latest international data and reports on food security and nutrition, including the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017 report, for finalization by the Bureau after consultation with the Advisory Group;
  - e) Decided to send inputs to the 2019 review of the HLPF held under the theme "Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality", and requested that the Committee presents a contribution for consideration in CFS 45, in line with the decision in CFS 43, to be developed through an inclusive process in accordance with provisions foreseen in the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2018-2019;
  - f) Encouraged all CFS stakeholders to increase their coordinated engagement at different levels in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **III. CFS AND NUTRITION**

14. The Committee considered the report on Nutrition and Food Systems commissioned from the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE). The Committee provided space for FAO and WHO to update CFS membership on reporting related to commitments taken during the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and in the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition Work Programme. A session on good practices and lesson sharing for improved nutrition provided the opportunity to share and discuss experiences on investments for healthy food systems. The outcomes of CFS activities on nutrition in the last intersessional period and implications for the next biennium were considered.
15. For item III.a "Launch of the HLPE report on Nutrition and Food Systems", the Committee:
- a) Acknowledged with appreciation the "High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) Report on Nutrition and Food Systems" (document CFS 2017/44/Inf.16) presented by Ms Jessica Fanzo, Project Team Leader, took note of its main findings and its call to action and noted in the subsequent discussion:
    - i) That food systems, whether traditional, mixed or modern, each have challenges, and the potential to open pathways towards sustainability and healthier diets that enhance food security and nutrition now and in the future;
    - ii) Recommendation 9a of the HLPE Report for CFS to consider elaborating voluntary guidelines on improved food environments for healthy diets;
    - iii) That food environment actors, especially women, all need to be valued and supported to shift towards nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems with holistic solutions adapted to fit contexts and changing consumer demands, preferences and tastes; and
  - b) Recommended that subsequent policy convergence in CFS on nutrition is supported by the scientific evidence provided in the report.
16. For item III.b "Update on Reporting of the Second International Conference on Nutrition" the Committee:
- a) Welcomed, in the context of the ongoing implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the document "Progress Report on Follow-up to the Second

- International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition)” (CFS 2017/44/Inf 17) presented jointly by FAO and WHO and considered its findings;
- b) Recognised the importance of using and promoting CFS policy guidance in supporting country efforts to implement their commitments and reaffirmed, in accordance with the Nutrition Decade Work Programme, that CFS will continue to provide a platform for global coordination and policy coherence and convergence on nutrition, and space for dialogue and experience sharing among governments and other stakeholders;
  - c) Welcomed the announcement by Brazil and Ecuador of specific SMART commitments for concrete actions, as well as the launch of action networks for sustainable and balanced food systems that can contribute to ending malnutrition in all its forms; and encouraged all stakeholders to step up efforts, in accordance with the Nutrition Decade Work Programme;
  - d) Reiterated its request to FAO and WHO to be periodically updated on further progress in the implementation of ICN2;
  - e) Recommended that the findings of document CFS 2017/44/Inf 17 on persisting policy gaps and successes inform upcoming CFS policy convergence work on nutrition.
17. For item III.c “Good practices and Lesson Sharing for Improved Nutrition”, the Committee:
- a) Welcomed the good practice and lesson sharing session on “Investments for Healthy Food Systems” and the presentation of case-studies, supported by the background document (CFS 2017/44/Inf 18) which shared information on practices and useful experiences for the Committee’s consideration.
18. The Committee further noted that:
- a) A holistic multisectoral approach to both policy and programmatic interventions is needed to move towards sustainable and healthy food systems;
  - b) Processes, policies and investments aimed at healthy food systems need to be aligned across sectors and supported by strong political commitment, effective institutional arrangements, sufficient funding and monitoring arrangements;
  - c) Institutional arrangements and governance should ensure the meaningful participation and engagement of civil society and the private sector and all value chain actors as important investors and actors of transformation towards healthier and more sustainable food systems, and encourage effective and inclusive partnerships;
  - d) Women play a central role in food systems and it is crucial to create the conditions for their strong engagement in shaping food systems that can ensure improved nutrition.
19. For item III.d “CFS Advancing Nutrition including the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition”, the Committee:
- a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Nutrition Chaired by Mr Khaled El-Taweel (Egypt);
  - b) Considered the document CFS 2017/44/Inf 19 Rev.1 “CFS Intersessional Nutrition Activities: Summaries”, and in particular welcomed the discussion in the OEWG on the CFS contribution to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), as presented by the Chairperson, reaffirming that the decision in CFS 43 “CFS Engagement in Advancing Nutrition” (CFS 2016/43/9) provides the main basis for CFS work on nutrition and its contribution to collective efforts under the framework of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition;
  - c) Mandated the OEWG on nutrition, in the context of the UN Decade for Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), to develop as per MYPOW 2018-19, using voluntary resources and re-prioritizing existing ones, terms of reference for the policy convergence process leading to voluntary guidelines for food systems and nutrition for submission to Plenary in CFS 45; these

would be informed by the HLPE Report on Nutrition and Food Systems, and benefit from the outcomes of the CFS 2016-17 intersessional activities and of the nutrition-related discussions in CFS 44.

## IV. POLICY CONVERGENCE

### IV.A SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

20. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation the HLPE report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition and the presentation made by Mr Terence Sunderland, HLPE Project Team Leader, on the main policy relevant evidence included in the report. H.E. Akram Chehayeb, Chairperson of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO), presented views on how the work and policy recommendations developed by CFS can be used in the context of COFO, and lead to greater coordination, noting the outcomes of CFS will be considered by COFO in its 2018 session. H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland), Rapporteur of the CFS policy convergence process, presented the proposed policy recommendations resulting from the discussions between CFS Members and other stakeholders.

21. The Committee:

- a) Encouraged all stakeholders to disseminate the recommendations at the local, national, regional and global levels, and make use of and support their application when formulating strategies, policies and programmes, as appropriate;
- b) Noted the importance for CFS stakeholders to implement existing global policy instruments on forests, particularly the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 and relevant multilateral environmental agreements;
- c) Recommended that in the future more time is allowed for the CFS policy convergence process following the launch of the HLPE reports;
- d) Encouraged the CFS Bureau to consider convening a specific meeting, inviting the Rome-based Agencies, to discuss the issues that were not sufficiently discussed during the policy convergence process, including the relation between commercial plantations and food security and nutrition, and requested the CFS Secretariat to map the recommendations with relevant SDGs and targets, subject to available resources and the workload of CFS;
- e) Encouraged these policy recommendations to be forwarded to relevant policy bodies including the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

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22. Forests and trees<sup>3</sup>, in their diversity of ecosystems and human perceptions and uses, contribute directly and indirectly to food security and nutrition (FSN) in numerous ways and at different levels. These contributions vary according to types of forests and the way they are managed. Forest foods contribute to dietary quality and diversity and serve as safety nets in periods of food scarcity to those directly depending on forests for their livelihoods. They also play a role as coping mechanisms in terms of shock and crises. Wild foods from forests provide nutritious food and diversity to diets to millions of rural women, men and children. Woodfuel is a primary source of energy for cooking and sterilizing water for one in three households globally. Forests generate income for local people and

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<sup>3</sup> The category trees outside forests gathers a diversity of agriculture systems with very divergent scales and impact on FSN.

provide essential ecosystem services that are essential for sustainable agriculture by regulating water flows, stabilizing soils, maintaining soil fertility, regulating the climate and providing habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests.

23. However, land use conversion for agriculture driven by increased demand and land degradation remains the main cause of global deforestation, accounting for 70-80 percent<sup>4</sup> of total forest loss and with adverse impacts on the environment and millions of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders. Sustainable agriculture, food security and improved nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests. Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy, sustainable and productive forest and tree ecosystems.

24. The following recommendations have been elaborated building upon the main findings of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of CFS (HLPE) report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. They aim to strengthen the contributions of sustainable management of forests and trees to the achievement of food security and nutrition and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security in the overall context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the essential role of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), and the role of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The recommendations complement the recently adopted United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 and build upon the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as applicable.

25. In addition and within this context, gender responsive implementation of the recommendations is important and thus the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, respecting their rights, and access to forest and land tenure, agriculture and forestry support services, capacity building, and fostering women's equal participation in decision making is essential to achieving food security and nutrition and should be mainstreamed across all policy recommendations.

26. These recommendations are particularly important to address the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders especially forest-dependent people who have a spiritual, cultural, social, political and economic relationship with forests. These include forest hunters, gatherers and workers. They are part of the group of smallholders who contribute significantly to global food production.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are primarily addressed to governments for public policies, but are also addressed to all stakeholders with a role in achieving food security and nutrition. The recommendations are voluntary and non-binding and aim to complement and not restate related guidance previously provided in other CFS policy products and recommendations.

### **I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF, RAISE AWARENESS ON, AND ENCOURAGE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF FORESTS AND TREES TO THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF FSN<sup>5</sup>**

- a) Recognize the need to strengthen the contribution of forests and trees, within landscape mosaics, in the provision of fundamental ecosystem services to support agricultural production and restore land productivity;

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<sup>4</sup> State of the World's Forests, SOFO. FAO, 2016. HLPE report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> The four dimensions of food security are: access, availability, utilization and stability.

- b) Recognize and respect appropriate traditional practices and the key contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders when managing sustainably and in an integrated manner land, forests and trees while achieving FSN;
- c) Recognize the vital role of forestry for livelihoods and sustainable development around the world.

## **II. DEVELOP AND USE POLICY-RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE AND DATA ON THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORESTS AND TREES TO FSN**

- a) Take measures to inform and train FSN policy makers and practitioners about the importance of sustainable forest and trees management for FSN using participatory methodologies to generate knowledge about the contributions of forests and trees to FSN, at different spatial and temporal scales recognizing indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders as holders of traditional knowledge;
- b) Build the necessary capacities, and provide professional training and organizational changes needed for participatory research, better data collection and extension services;
- c) Design metrics and collect data that are disaggregated by gender, age, and other social parameters;
- d) Improve trans-sectorial, systemic data collection in FSN and forestry monitoring systems, on the use of wild foods (animals, plants, mushrooms) and forest products, including for nutritional content, dietary quality and diversity, poverty alleviation, health and medicinal purposes, as well as harvest impacts;
- e) Perform more research on the contribution of Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) to FSN and on relations between trees and agricultural productions in agroforestry systems, as well as knowledge on insufficiently explored diversity of forest genetic resources likely to meet human FSN needs.

## **III. DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR POLICIES FOR INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED AND SUSTAINABLE FSN**

### States to:

- a) Promote an integrated approach including the nexus among forestry, agriculture, water and FSN to strengthen policy coherence across sectors and at different scales, by reinforcing cross-sectoral coordination through a participatory and inclusive process;
- b) Provide the institutional and financial requirements and policy support to integrate resilience-enhancing dimensions of forests and trees into agricultural and food security and nutrition policies and programs;
- c) Respect, protect and fulfill the rights of women in the forestry and agricultural sectors and tackle gender disparities which negatively impact FSN;
- d) Develop and promote participatory forest and trees policies and management planning and measures that enhance access to nutritionally important forest food products for indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders;
- e) Promote forest conservation, regeneration of native forests and restoration of degraded forests, where appropriate, as well as the development of agroforestry systems;
- f) Provide incentives for the provision of forest-based ecosystem services that benefit sustainable agriculture and FSN.

All stakeholders to:

- g) Increase investment in research to establish, promote and upscale good practices in agriculture, forestry and agroforestry systems within integrated landscape mosaics;
- h) Promote integrated planning and local adaptive management of landscapes, including community systems, acknowledging the multiple functions and uses of forests and trees that contribute to enhance resilience of landscapes, communities and livelihoods;
- i) Promote a nutrition-sensitive approach to integrate the multiple goals of FSN, sustainable forest management, land use, and biodiversity conservation;
- j) Encourage appropriate technical support, extension services and training to stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups;
- k) Increase the coherence between agricultural productivity and forest conservation to lessen the pressure put on forests;
- l) Mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment throughout forestry institutions, policy and programmes to promote women's leadership and access to and control over forest resources and income opportunities for achieving FSN;
- m) Promote and integrate low-carbon, renewable energy schemes for FSN in sustainable forest management plans including on a small scale supported by the indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders to achieve multiple benefits such as adequate access to fuel for food preparation; and invest in social and technical innovations in particular to minimize health risks associated with the use of woodfuel;
- n) Increase responsible public and private investments to support community-driven, forest-based enterprises for sustainable livelihoods.

**IV. PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES, AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (VGGT)**

- a) Promote forests, trees and farmlands-related policies, legislation and programmes based on the VGGT, that respect and secure the legitimate tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples;
- b) Collaboratively develop VGGT-based initiatives with indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders to enhance the productivity and resilience of forests and tree-based systems, and incorporate these initiatives into policies, programmes and practices;
- c) Facilitate access and sustainable use of forest and trees resources as well as access to markets<sup>6</sup> for indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders for the progressive realization of their right to adequate food in the context of national food security, national laws and legitimate tenure and resource use rights;
- d) Apply the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) to all types and sizes of agricultural investments including fisheries, forests and livestock for enhancing food security and nutrition.

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<sup>6</sup> In line with the CFS recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets.

#### **IV.B OUTCOMES OF THE FORUM ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

27. The Committee:

- a) Expressed its appreciation to Ms Helen Hakena for her keynote address on the challenges to achieving gender equality in Papua New Guinea and on the role of women in promoting peace, protecting the environment and ensuring food security and nutrition;
- b) Welcomed the Forum on Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, which brought together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the challenges that remain in realizing women's empowerment and to promote a shared understanding of the need to achieve gender equality and the full realization of women's rights in the context of food security and nutrition;
- c) Took note of the Forum's outcomes, as outlined in document CFS 2017/44/7 (CFS Forum on Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition – Chair's summary with draft outcomes), and particularly drew attention to the need for governments to stand behind their commitments to ensure the equal rights of men and women, boys and girls in the context of food security and nutrition by translating those commitments into national policies, programmes, investments and adequate human and financial resources;
- d) Highlighted the need to work towards the implementation of UN General Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), especially its General Recommendation 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women;
- e) Emphasized the importance of mainstreaming gender equality, women's and girls' rights and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition in all CFS work streams, products and documents.

#### **IV.C URBANIZATION, RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

28. The Committee:

- a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition, chaired by H.E. Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands);
- b) Recalling para 32 e) of the CFS 43 Final report, acknowledged the compilation of experiences and effective policy approaches contained in the document CFS 2017/44/6 "Addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics: experiences and effective policy approaches" as an informative exercise to help develop a common understanding of issues among CFS stakeholders and possibly lay the basis for informed CFS policy convergence and coordination work;
- c) Took note of the thematic areas identified in the document as entry points to addressing food security and nutrition in the context of rural-urban linkages and of the knowledge gaps and policy implications emerging from the review;
- d) Took note of the outcomes of the OEWG discussions, particularly of the areas identified by Members and Participants as requiring further attention: (i) the impacts of urbanization and rural transformation on the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable and on lower income groups (smallholders, landless, net food buyers, informal sector traders, low income urban consumers); (ii) addressing the areas in point (i) through promoting youth and women engagement and employment in food systems across the rural-urban continuum including linking producers to markets; (iii) the development of a vision for food systems; and (iv) local and regional governance of food security and nutrition and the role of small/intermediate cities;

- e) Agreed that CFS should continue its work in 2018 to carry out further exploratory work through two intersessional events in order to determine at CFS 45 the feasibility of working towards policy convergence to support governments and other stakeholders at the national and local level in addressing food security and nutrition within the context of changing rural-urban dynamics as elaborated in paras 19-27 of the 2018-2019 CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

## **V. CFS WORKSTREAMS AND ACTIVITY UPDATES**

### **V.A CFS MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPoW) FOR 2018-2019**

29. The Committee considered the document CFS 2017/44/8 Rev.1 “CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2018-2019”, as presented by Mr Md Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh), Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

30. The Committee:

- a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on MYPoW;
- b) Adopted the CFS MYPoW for 2018-2019 which provides an overview of the CFS vision, and the objectives, expected outcomes, process and budgetary implications of future CFS workstreams, including the reports to be produced by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE);
- c) Noted that the implementation of the MYPoW will be contingent on sufficient resourcing and invited all stakeholders to contribute to closing the existing financial gap, recognizing that the funding for the HLPE and CSM is entirely covered by voluntary resources and faces a chronic gap; and asked the CFS Bureau to keep the situation under review;
- d) Took note of the second note prepared by the HLPE on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition as an important element for future discussions concerning the preparation of future programmes of work;
- e) Stressed the importance of a feasible MYPoW in terms of time, human and financial resources, and of limiting the number of parallel workstreams, recognizing that the elements and the guiding principles for future work on the preparation of the CFS programme of work, including its duration, strategic content, and links to budgeting, will depend on the outcomes of the discussions concerning the follow-up to the CFS Evaluation that will be presented at CFS 45 in 2018;
- f) Reiterated the importance of the follow-up to the CFS Evaluation, the need to avoid launching new workstreams before the current ones are finalized, and recommended that HLPE reports should be limited to one per year.

### **V.B GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (GSF) - PERIODIC UPDATE**

31. The Committee considered the document CFS 2017/44/10 Rev.1 “Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) - 2017 Edition”, as presented by Ms Fernanda Mansur Tansini (Brazil), Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on GSF.

32. The Committee:

- a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on GSF, recognizing the positive conclusion of its mandate with the finalization of the periodic update of the GSF;

- b) Endorsed the revised version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF), which is the first periodic update carried out by the Committee, and noted that the update was prepared in accordance with the 2013 plenary decision<sup>7</sup> and the guidance included in the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2016-2017<sup>8</sup>;
- c) Welcomed the creation of the online GSF as a functional, user-friendly tool that is easier to use and disseminate - <http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/products/onlinegsf/en/>;
- d) Agreed that future annual updates of the GSF will be carried out by the CFS Secretariat after each plenary session and invited the MYPoW OEWG to consider whether a new periodic update is needed after 4 years;
- e) Encouraged all CFS stakeholders to undertake actions at the national, regional and global levels that would facilitate the dissemination and promote the use of the GSF.

### V.C MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CFS

33. The Committee considered the document CFS 2017/44/11 "Monitoring the Implementation of CFS main Policy Products and other CFS Policy Recommendations", presented by the CFS Chair on behalf of Mr Robert Sabiiti (Uganda), Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Monitoring.

34. The Committee:

- a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Monitoring and reiterated the importance of the monitoring function for CFS;
- b) Endorsed the document (CFS 2017/44/11) that outlines the approach to monitoring the implementation of CFS main policy products, in accordance with CFS 43 decisions (CFS 2016/43 Final Report and CFS 2016/43/7), and CFS other policy recommendations, as follows:
  - CFS main policy products through holding a Global Thematic Event in Plenary every two years; and
  - Other CFS policy recommendations through holding events on an ad hoc basis, considering the relevance and potential contribution of monitoring these recommendations to the global food security and nutrition agenda and resource availability. The events will be organized during the plenary week or the intersessional period depending inter alia on specific objectives and the timeframe for contributing to the global agenda;
- c) Agreed to hold the next three Global Thematic Events during CFS 45, CFS 47 and CFS 49, respectively to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security in 2018, the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis in 2020, and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems in 2022;
- d) Requested the Bureau in consultation with the Advisory Group, and the OEWG on monitoring in a one-off meeting, to oversee the preparation of the Global Thematic Event in plenary in 2018 and of events organized for monitoring the other CFS policy recommendations during the plenary week or the intersessional periods, subject to resource availability;

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<sup>7</sup> CFS 2013/40 Final Report, paragraph 58a and CFS 2013/40/5 Rev.1, paragraphs 3, 4b and 5.

<sup>8</sup> CFS 2015/42/12, paragraphs 36-39

- e) Recognized the importance of following up on previous decisions of CFS on monitoring in the context of the CFS evaluation Plan of Action, subject to resource availability; and
- f) Recognized that the need for and role of the OEWG on monitoring may be reconsidered in light of the decisions of the Committee related to the follow-up to the independent evaluation of CFS.

## **VI. RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF CFS**

35. The Committee considered the document CFS 2017/44/12 Rev.1 “Consultation Report for the Preparation of the Response to the CFS Evaluation”, as presented by Mr Khaled El Taweel (Egypt) and Mr Jón Erlingur Jónasson (Iceland), co-facilitators of the process.

36. The Committee:

- a) Expressed its appreciation to the evaluation team led by Ms Angela Bester for the quality of the independent evaluation of CFS, and to Mr Khaled El Taweel and Mr Jón Erlingur Jónasson for facilitating the preparation of the response to the evaluation leading up to CFS 44;
- b) Endorsed the “Consultation Report for the Preparation of the Response to the CFS Evaluation” (CFS 2017/44/12 Rev.1);
- c) Requested the Bureau, after consultation with the Advisory Group, seeking additional input as needed, to:
  - Finalize the Plan of Action for consideration and endorsement at CFS 45, as outlined in Annex 1 of document CFS 2017/44/12 Rev.1, by preparing the response to all recommendations that have not been presented to CFS 44;
  - Implement the response to the recommendations that do not require plenary endorsement, as listed in Annex 2 of document CFS 2017/44/12 Rev.1, and report to CFS 45;
  - Implement the response to Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9, based on the indications in document CFS 2017/44/12 Rev.1, and report to CFS 45;
- d) Requested the Bureau to implement the response to Recommendation 8, seeking additional input as needed, considering the indications in document CFS 2017/44/12 Rev.1, and report to CFS 45;
- e) Decided exceptionally, without setting a precedent, that the Bureau may appoint its Advisory Group until March 2018 and thereafter consider if changes are needed in the composition of the Advisory Group for the remainder of the Bureau’s term, taking into account the implementation of the response to Recommendation 4 and the need for any plenary decisions;
- f) Provided the following guidance for the Bureau’s consideration in its work in the 2018 intersessional period, in line with the discussions during Plenary:
  - CFS should be connected to the broader political agenda, with special regard to the 2030 Agenda, and ensure synergies with initiatives that have similar or complementary objectives in policy convergence;
  - CFS needs a longer term and more strategic approach that adds value to food security and nutrition, optimizing the benefits of its investments in workstreams based on the expected results;
  - There should be a comprehensive planning phase for selecting CFS work with clear application of criteria and connection with resourcing; the selection of topics should take into account their relevance to CFS mandate and vision;

- It is important to give attention to the evaluation finding that CFS products may be unknown at the country level; this requires identifying ways to ensure involvement and commitment of all stakeholders, including RBAs, in promoting CFS products and strengthening the role of CFS as a central platform for food security and nutrition and stimulating vibrant and substantive plenaries:
- The selection process of HLPE team members should be transparent;
- It is important to revisit the composition of the Advisory Group to fulfil its substantive role, remaining open to all relevant actors within existing parameters in the CFS reform document (CFS: 2009/2 Rev.2).

37. The Committee supports the Bureau's leadership of the implementation of the response to the recommendations of the independent evaluation report, noting the process should be as open, participative and inclusive as possible.