



COVID-19, Food Security and Nutrition: Responses by CFS Advisory Group Members to Avert a Global Food Crisis

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At its 17 April meetings, the CFS Bureau and its (ad hoc) Advisory Group discussed the roles that CFS should play during the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with its mandate, agreeing that it would continue to utilize its unique platform within the UN system for bringing together the foremost policy expertise on global food security and nutrition issues for discussion and exchange of relevant information, in terms of the pandemic's ongoing and anticipated impacts on hunger and nutrition.

After a 19 March extraordinary meeting of the CFS Bureau in which stakeholders discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and its links to food security and nutrition, [the CFS Chair released a statement](#) noting that CFS will continue to play an active role:

In line with its vision to be “the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings,” CFS stands ready to continue to play its role by providing a space to exchange experiences and lessons learned, as well as evidence-based policy guidance to overcome the challenges and uncertainties of this difficult time. We still have time to prevent a major food crisis resulting from this pandemic, but only if we act together, and now.

CFS members and stakeholders will continue to use the platform to keep each other informed of key issues and developments relevant to the CFS mandate, with the aim of ensuring that food security and nutrition concerns are a major component of the international, regional, and national policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic. CFS Members and stakeholders will also use the platform to coordinate global food security policy guidance, as recommended in the CFS High Level Panel of Experts' (HLPE) *“Interim Issue Paper on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition,”* issued on 24 March 2020.

Noting that the present crisis is still evolving, is unprecedented in its scale, and is changing rapidly with many unknowns, CFS is convening a stakeholders' event where members of its Advisory Group who are at the forefront of averting a possible COVID-19-related food crisis will share their experiences and lessons learned.

The event, scheduled for 6 May, will be hosted on Zoom and will be open to all stakeholders. The Chair of the HLPE Steering Committee and specific members of the AG will be invited to deliver their presentations on notable responses followed by an open debate.

The discussions will be summarized in a CFS Chair's statement to be issued immediately after.