



Continuing a discussion from its 17 April meeting, the CFS Bureau along with its (ad hoc) Advisory Group discussed on 13 May the role that CFS should play with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with its vision and mandate. The following paper responds to membership interest in determining what more the Committee can do to address the negative fall-out of the global pandemic on global food security and nutrition (FSN). Several potential roles are identified below, based on the three strategic objectives agreed in the CFS 2020-23 Multi-Year Program of Work (MYPoW).

Member Countries and ad hoc Advisory Group members will be invited to comment on this document at their 2 June meeting, and volunteer to further flesh out ideas as participants in an ad hoc Friends of the Chair group along with the CFS Secretariat. That group will develop an options paper for decision at the next meeting of the CFS Bureau.

**(i) Role in line with the first strategic objective (Platform) – *Leverage the convening power of CFS as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to discuss the global FSN situation and seek to coordinate collective action at all levels.***

**Objective:** Ensure that food security and nutrition considerations are major components of the global, regional and national policy response to the pandemic, by regularly interacting with key partners, reviewing available information, and collecting/sharing first-hand evidence from CFS stakeholders on the impact of COVID-19 on FSN, and on the effects of the policy measures that are being adopted on FSN. The results will be regularly discussed at open meetings, good practices and lessons will be conveyed, and findings and recommendations will be documented and widely shared to ensure FSN receives high priority in relevant policy responses.

**How:** Key partners working on major aspects of FSN (availability, access, utilization, stability, sustainability and agency) are invited to share their findings with CFS, key documents are reviewed, and CFS stakeholders are asked to share experiences on situations of food insecurity and malnutrition caused by COVID-19 and on the impacts of policy measures on food security and nutrition, in particular on poor and vulnerable groups. The outcomes from these open meetings could form the basis of a background document to be used in a CFS plenary session or other settings.

**Role of HLPE:** HLPE could be requested to prepare background notes for future open meetings and/or prepare a background document for CFS 47 on the impact of COVID 19 on food security and nutrition and of policy measures, consolidating lessons learned in the short term about effective responses to problems caused by the pandemic.

**Role of Members, Advisory Group, and other CFS stakeholders:** CFS could request Members, Advisory Group members, and other CFS stakeholders to share and update their activities, good practices, and lessons learned during the implementations of COVID-19 response and rehabilitation programmes at the country level.

**(ii) Role in line with the second strategic objective (Policy) – Develop voluntary global policy guidance for policy convergence and coherence to achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.**

**Objective:** Ensure that the policy outcomes of all on-going and future CFS policy convergence processes agreed in 2020-23 CFS MYPoW, the HLPE Global Narrative Report, and successive HLPE reports reflect available analysis of the impacts of pandemics like COVID-19 on food systems and effective policy responses.

**How:** CFS to reflect on how to ensure that COVID-19 is adequately considered in on-going and future CFS policy outcomes. The two on-going policy convergence processes should include text to encourage the implementation of food security and nutrition policies that integrate important lessons learned from the pandemic.

**Role of HLPE:** HLPE has prepared an Interim Issue Paper that will be updated to reflect the latest information and experience, conclusions about which will be incorporated into its 2030 Synthesis Report scheduled for public release in late June.

**Role of Members, Advisory Group, and other CFS stakeholders:** They could share their experience and make additional comments on an Interim Issue Paper and the two on-going convergence policies.

**(iii) Role in line with the third strategic objective (Uptake) – Foster the uptake, follow-up and review, and sharing of experiences and best practices on the use and application of CFS products at all levels.**

**Objective:** Promote the uptake of CFS policy products and recommendations by documenting and presenting experiences and good practices in using and applying the most relevant CFS policy outcomes to address the impact of the pandemic on food security and nutrition.

**How:** Hold a stocktaking event at CFS 47, informed by inputs from CFS stakeholders documenting their experiences and good practices in implementing CFS policy outcomes during COVID-19 crisis. Such an event could be organized like CFS monitoring exercises (activities: call for inputs; preparation of a report with consolidated results; presentation of the results by panellists). Most relevant policy products and recommendations to support COVID-19 recovery could be selected (e.g. RtF, VGGTs, RAI and FFA). Alternatively, the HLPE 2030 Synthesis paper would form the basis of such an event.

**Role of HLPE:** HLPE could be requested to update its Interim Issue Paper as a background document for CFS 47 on the impact of COVID 19 on food security and nutrition and of the results of policy measures applied to support food security and nutrition.

**Role of Members, Advisory Group, and other CFS stakeholders:** They could help CFS foster and promote the uptake, follow-up, and review of applications of CFS products.