

The Committee on World Food Security

The vision of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is to be the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner in support of country led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. CFS will strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. CFS represents a unique, innovative multistakeholder platform for enhanced policy and institutional coherence. The unique features of the reformed CFS include expanded participation rules and a specific science-policy interface. The CFS inclusive policy making processes ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, are heard in the food and agriculture policy dialogue. The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) provides independent evidence-based reports to inform and support policy convergence.

Within the CFS framework, inclusiveness is not considered an end in itself but rather a means for the Committee to better deliver on its roles as a UN intergovernmental Committee involved in the global governance body of food security and nutrition. In CFS, all multistakeholder consultations feed into the CFS Plenary, where Member countries remain the ultimate decision makers as well as principal actors in the attainment of food security and nutrition for all.

Faster progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition is needed to ensure that “no one is left behind”

CFS is alarmed by the current trends showing that the world is far from being on track to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and meet SDG2 targets by 2030. For the third consecutive year, evidence by the 2018 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WHO and WFP continues to signal a rise on world hunger and a reversal of trends after a prolonged decline. The absolute number of people in the world affected by undernourishment, or chronic food deprivation, is estimated to have increased to nearly 821 million in 2017 from around 804 million in 2016.

An integrated framework to achieve SDG2: the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security

A Zero Hunger vision, guided by a stronger commitment to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (VGRtF) is critical in national efforts to reverse the negative trends. This calls for both short and longer term interventions (a “Twin-track” approach”) to poverty food ([Sweden food poverty](#)), food insecurity and malnutrition and their causes. The VGRtF provide an overall framework for achieving food security and nutrition objectives. They call for the right to adequate food to be the main objective of food security policies, programmes, strategies and legislation. Such measures are particularly needed for vulnerable people living and working in specific

locations (rural areas and hinterlands, urban slums) and sectors (small-scale-agriculture) where poverty and hunger tend to be concentrated, and in which gender inequalities and gender-based discrimination, can particularly threaten women and girls' nutritional status. [Ensuring women and girl's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition are effective tools to eliminate gender-based discrimination \(CSM\)](#)

Smallholder agriculture plays a key role for SDG2 and the 2030 Agenda

Small-scale food producers (including small-scale farmers, artisanal fisher-folks, and pastoralists) and other key actors across agri-food systems play a critical role in catalysing rural transformations that ensure sustainable livelihoods and human dignity, particularly in countries where smallholder agriculture is the main provider of food and employment. They should be supported by enabling policies and targeted investments. Evidence shows that higher incomes among smallholders (SDG1, 2) can result in more diversified production and healthy diets, leading to improved nutrition and health (SDG3). Moreover, closing the gender gap in agriculture (SDG5) could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 percent. Improved livelihoods of small scale food producers and rural actors can also generate demand for local agricultural inputs, assets and services, commercial distribution and processing infrastructure and services, and non-food consumable goods. This demand creates more entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for large youth populations and, if met, can help to achieve growth and development in previously 'left behind' areas (SDG9).

Countries in protracted crises are at risk of being left behind and deserve specific attention

Protracted crises are often the result of the combination of multiple drivers, including conflict, natural disasters and climate change. Countries experiencing these circumstances should be given high priority by the international community. They need immediate actions to alleviate hunger, malnutrition and suffering, and medium to long-term actions to build resilience, avoid impoverishment, and address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition. The CFS Framework for Action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises (CFS-FFA) should be considered by all actors involved in situations of protracted crisis.

Secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests

The eradication of hunger and poverty, and the sustainable use of the environment, depends in large measure on how people gain access to land, fish and forest resources. 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. In 2012, CFS members endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) to provide guidance to stakeholders on how to facilitate secure tenure rights and foster equitable access to land, fisheries, and forests.

The use of the VGGT can improve governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests for the benefit of all, and provide the needed foundation to eradicate hunger and poverty, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized people. The VGGT recognize customary tenure systems of indigenous peoples and other communities as legitimate, and encourage states to protect such rights. The VGGT aim to contribute to 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 development, and are directly relevant to targets of SDG 1, 2, 5, 14 and 17.

Invest responsibly in agriculture and food systems

To end poverty and hunger by 2030 a significant increase in both public and private investment is needed, and current and future investment must be made more responsible and pro-poor. Recognizing the vital role of smallholders in agriculture and food systems, it is particularly important that their capacity to invest be strengthened and secured. Investing in agriculture and food systems can produce multiplier effects for complementary sectors, such as services or manufacturing industries, thus further contributing to food security and nutrition and overall economic development. Responsible investment can make a significant contribution to enhancing sustainable livelihoods, in particular for smallholders and members of marginalized and vulnerable groups, by creating decent work for agricultural and food workers, fostering social and gender equality, empowering youth, promoting social participation and inclusiveness, increasing economic growth, and therefore achieving sustainable development. In 2014 CFS members and stakeholders reached consensus on the CFS-Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFSRAI) to provide guidance to stakeholders on how to promote more responsible investment that contributes to food security and nutrition.

CFS draft contribution to the
2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development global
review

“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”

In depth-review of SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17

The Committee on World Food Security

The vision of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is to be the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner in support of country led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. CFS will strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. CFS represents a unique, innovative multistakeholder platform for enhanced policy and institutional coherence. The unique features of the reformed CFS include expanded participation rules and a specific science-policy interface. The CFS inclusive policy making processes ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, are heard in the food and agriculture policy dialogue. The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) provides independent evidence-based reports to inform and support policy convergence.

Within the CFS framework, inclusiveness is not considered an end in itself but rather a means for the Committee to better deliver on its roles as a UN intergovernmental Committee involved in the global governance body of food security and nutrition. In CFS, all multistakeholder consultations feed into the CFS Plenary, where Member countries remain the ultimate decision makers as well as principal actors in the attainment of food security and nutrition for all.

Are we moving towards people's empowerment and inclusive, equal societies in 2030?

For the third consecutive year, evidence by the [2018 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#) report, jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WHO and WFP continues to signal a rise on world hunger and a reversal of trends after a prolonged decline. The absolute number of people in the world affected by undernourishment, or chronic food deprivation, is estimated to have increased to nearly 821 million in 2017 from around 804 million in 2016.

While some progress continues to be made in reducing child stunting, levels still remain unacceptably high. Nearly 151 million children under five – or over 22 percent – are affected by stunting in 2017.

Wasting continues to affect over 50 million children under five in the world and these children are at increased risk of morbidity and mortality.

Food insecurity contributes to undernutrition, as well as overweight and obesity, and high rates of these forms of malnutrition coexist in many countries. The higher cost of nutritious foods, the stress of living with food insecurity and physiological adaptation to food restriction help explain why food insecure families may have a higher risk of overweight and obesity.

In addition to persisting inequalities of income, conflict, climate variability and extremes are among the key drivers behind the recent uptick in global hunger and one of the leading causes of severe food crises. The cumulative effect of changes in climate is undermining all dimensions of food security – food availability, access, utilization and stability.

The signs of increasing food insecurity and high levels of different forms of malnutrition are a clear warning that there is an urgent need for considerable additional work to ensure inclusiveness, equality and peoples' empowerment.

Concrete recommendations from CFS

Based on the latest evidence, eradicating hunger and malnutrition in all of its forms is further away now than it was in the past decade. The HLPF should therefore point to the urgent need for countries to implement the CFS evidence-based policy guidelines and recommendations which can help achieving various SDGs in an integrated way. CFS contributes to advancing the 2030 Agenda as a global multi-stakeholder committee through its policy outcomes which constitute ready available tools for countries to advance food security and nutrition with a focus on the most vulnerable. Though voluntary in nature, CFS policies are developed through an inclusive, participatory process which contributes to their legitimacy. The full list of CFS reference documents is included in the annex.

Key message 1: Ensuring access to resources and services for smallholder farmers, rural women, indigenous people and family farmers creates the enabling conditions for reduced inequalities and improved food security and nutrition. Although smallholder farmers produce most of the world's food, many millions among them remain food insecure themselves. Globally, they form the majority of people living in poverty. Women producers are even more likely to suffer from the lack of access – especially to

land, finance, productive resources and services, decent work, and participation in political processes at all levels. When appropriate conditions are in place, smallholder farmers, rural women, indigenous people and family farmers are key agents of change in promoting food security and nutrition and in generating inclusive economic growth.

Key message 2: Responsible investment in agriculture and food systems advances sustainable and inclusive economic growth and generates more employment and decent work ^[1]for all. Responsible investment in agriculture and food systems engages and empowers youth and women, and fosters gender equality. By providing appropriate training, education and mentorship programs, it contributes to on-farm and off-farm employment across sectors and therefore has much potential especially in countries prioritizing youth employment. Responsible, inclusive investment also improves the conditions of workers in the agriculture and agri-food sectors, who suffer some of the poorest labour conditions and rights violations. An appropriate public policy framework fosters the enabling environment for responsible investments.

Key message 3: Fostering sustainable agriculture and food systems strengthens resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly for the most vulnerable. Promoting sustainable agricultural systems, including through organic and agro-ecological approaches, and sustainable intensification, is key to enhancing the capacity of communities and countries to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable production systems also play a fundamental role in strengthening resilience to shocks, preserving biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing soil fertility and minimizing environmental degradation. Likewise, it is important to recognize, protect and respect the significant contribution traditional production systems, including agro-pastoral systems, which contribute to the food security and nutrition of the communities practicing them. Considering that climate change is likely to put vulnerable individuals and groups at greater risk of food insecurity ([Sweden climate change is already happening](#)) and malnutrition, these actions are imperative to reducing inequalities.

Key message 4: The full realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security contributes to achieving stable and peaceful societies and vice versa. The fulfilment of the human right to adequate food is interconnected with other human rights such as social protection, decent work, living wage, water and sanitation and plays a key role in creating social stability. Respecting, protecting and fulfilling the legitimate rights of people and communities to access, use and control land, water, fisheries and forest resources, such as through responsible governance of tenure, also play an essential role in conflict prevention. Conversely, conflicts negatively impact food security and nutrition, both directly and indirectly, making their prevention and resolution a priority for the full eradication of all forms of malnutrition. Securing livelihoods mitigates ([Sweden add forced migration](#)) migration pressures, from rural areas into cities and abroad.

^[1] Decent work definition by ILO: *Decent work involves opportunities for work that are productive and deliver a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and [social integration](#), freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and [equality of opportunity](#) and treatment for all women and men.*

Annex: CFS Reference documents

<p>1. CFS endorsed policy guidance and recommendations</p> <p>CFS Policy Guidance</p> <p>Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition – the repository of all CFS policy work</p> <p>Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGTs 2012)</p> <p>Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI 2014)</p> <p>Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (CFS-FFA 2015)</p> <p>CFS Policy Recommendations</p> <p>Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition (CFS 44, 2017)</p> <p>Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: What roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)</p> <p>Connecting Smallholders to Markets (CFS 43, 2016)</p> <p>Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)</p> <p>Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)</p> <p>Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)</p> <p>Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40, 2013)</p> <p>Biofuels and food security (CFS 40, 2013)</p> <p>Social protection for food security (CFS 3, 2012)</p> <p>Food security and climate change (CFS 39, 2012)</p> <p>Gender, food security and nutrition (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>How to increase food security and smallholder sensitive investments in agriculture (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>Price volatility and food security (CFS 37, 2011)</p>	<p>2. HLPE independent reports</p> <p>HLPE Report #13 Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda (CFS 45, 2018)</p> <p>HLPE Report #12 Nutrition and Food Systems (CFS 44, 2017)</p> <p>HLPE Report #11 Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition (CFS 44, 2017)</p> <p>HLPE Report #10 Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: What roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)</p> <p>HLPE Report #9 Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)</p> <p>HLPE Report #8 Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)</p> <p>HLPE Report #7 Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)</p> <p>HLPE Report #6 Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40, 2013)</p> <p>HLPE Report #5 Biofuels and food security (CFS 40, 2013)</p> <p>HLPE Report #4 Social protection for food security (CFS 39, 2012)</p> <p>HLPE Report #3 Food security and climate change (CFS 39, 2012)</p> <p>HLPE Report #2 Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>HLPE Report #1 Price volatility and food security (CFS 37, 2011)</p> <p>HLPE Note on Critical and Emerging Issues: 2014 and 2017</p> <p>HLPE Steering Committee contribution to SDG2 review</p> <p>3. Compilation of experiences resulting from thematic lessons learned events</p> <p>Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGTs) Summary and key elements (CFS 43, 2016)</p> <p>Experiences and good practices in 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 – Summary and key elements (CFS 45, 2018)</p>
--	--

