

CFS Engagement in Advancing Nutrition and its Contribution to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025

UNGA Resolution 70/259 “calls upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization to lead the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025), , in collaboration with the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Children’s Fund, and to identify and develop a work programme based on the Rome Declaration and its Framework for Action, along with its means of implementation for 2016–2025, using coordination mechanisms such as the Standing Committee on Nutrition and multi-stakeholder platforms such as the **Committee on World Food Security**, in line with its mandate, and in consultation with other international and regional organizations and platforms.” (A/RES/70/259)

The nutrition dimension is integral to the concept of food security and to the work of CFS and CFS is committed to further supporting on-going efforts of governments and other stakeholders to address malnutrition, **including in the context of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)** which was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly on 1 April 2016 and endorsed ICN2 outcomes.(...) (Strategy for CFS engagement in advancing nutrition, CFS 2016/43/9)

The functions and activities for CFS in nutrition, as agreed at CFS 43, will, within the CFS mandate, **contribute to FAO and WHO led efforts, in collaboration with WFP, IFAD and UNICEF, to implement a work programme for the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025).** (Strategy for CFS engagement in advancing nutrition, CFS 2016/43/9).

I. BACKGROUND AND VISION FOR NUTRITION

In its 43rd Plenary, the CFS approved the document on [CFS Engagement in Advancing Nutrition](#) (CFS 2016/43/9). This CFS strategy to step up its efforts against malnutrition in all its forms, specifies the CFS vision for its work in nutrition; its early focus on food systems; and proposes a number of activities for the coming years along CFS’ three mutually reinforcing functions: policy convergence, lessons and good practice sharing, and progress review. Amongst such activities, as part of the policy convergence work, CFS is also to discuss the work programme of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 (Nutrition Decade) and identify CFS potential contributions in line with its mandate to be submitted to CFS 44. This paper aims to facilitate discussion on CFS’ contribution to the Decade.

In its decision at CFS43, CFS spelled out the vision for its work in advancing nutrition: “A world free from malnutrition in all its forms, where all people at all stages of life and at all times have access to adequate food and enjoy diversified, balanced and healthy diets for an active and healthy life.” This vision guides all of the CFS work on nutrition.

II. CFS UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN ADVANCING NUTRITION

Using its multi-stakeholder, inclusive approach, CFS develops and endorses multi-sectoral policy recommendations and guidance on high priority food security and nutrition issues. These policy products are developed starting from scientific and evidence-based reports produced by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and/or through work supported technically by FAO, IFAD, WFP, other UN agencies with a mandate in nutrition and members of the CFS Advisory Group.

Within each of its functions – policy convergence, lessons and good practice sharing and progress tracking– CFS has identified a number of activities forming its engagement in advancing nutrition. These **planned activities will constitute contributions to the implementation of the work programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025**. See Annex 1 Activities Foreseen for *CFS Engagement In Advancing Nutrition* (CFS 2016/43/9).

1) Policy Convergence

The **policy convergence** work on nutrition will be informed by an HLPE report on Nutrition and Food Systems to be presented at CFS44; the development of a common understanding of nutrition issues amongst CFS stakeholders through specific events; leading to the identification of priorities for policy convergence work.

2) Lessons and Good Practice Sharing

The **lessons and good practice sharing** activities call for countries, in collaboration with existing initiatives and platforms, to share lessons and good practices on selected themes, including through south-south and triangular exchanges. These activities aim at an improved understanding of what works at country level to stimulate action and coordination as well as guide CFS in determining the scope and nature of its policy convergence work

3) CFS Platform for Tracking Progress

This function offers “*space and setting for forthcoming progress tracking mechanisms to discuss progress in implementing policies and actions that are relevant to the CFS work on nutrition*” (CFS 2016/43/9). This will feed into the policy convergence work. It includes inviting FAO and WHO to share with CFS members and stakeholders the joint report on overall progress of ICN2 commitments on a biennial basis and discuss the findings towards further progress. It also includes providing updates to the FAO Conference and WHA on the CFS work on nutrition as a contribution to ICN2 follow-up (based on CFS Final Reports); as well as the provision of inputs to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on progress in nutrition as part of the CFS work on the SDGs.

III. CFS AND THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE UN DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION 2016-2025

According to the draft work programme, action during the Nutrition Decade¹ will be centered on six cross-cutting, integrative areas for impact based on the ICN2 Framework for Action. The six areas are: (1) Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets; (2) Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions; (3) Social protection and nutrition education; (4) Trade and investment for improved nutrition; (5) Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages; and (6) Strengthened nutrition governance and accountability. These thematic areas, aimed to inform and frame action, should not be seen as silos.

CFS' mandate cuts across several of these areas. The Nutrition Decade 2016-2025 represents a continuous opportunity for the CFS to deliver on its engagement in advancing nutrition, and support members' and stakeholders' commitments to improve nutrition. Through its mandate, functions, and the corresponding activities on nutrition endorsed in Plenary, CFS will support members' and stakeholders' actions and progress related to several, if not all, "action areas" of the Work Programme. **Implementing the endorsed CFS proposal will constitute CFS' contribution to the initial Nutrition Decade's Work Programme.**

The Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade is a living document, that will be updated based on progress made in the course of the Nutrition Decade in achieving the global nutrition targets and nutrition related SDG targets. Its periodical progress reviews offer an occasion for the Committee to consider regular updates of its contribution and reflect on opportunities to further intensify its efforts.

CFS envisages its nutrition work as part and parcel of the work on the 2030 Agenda and SDG progress, and nutrition will be an important component of the Committee's contributions to support annual High Level Political Forum reviews in New York.

¹ The information on the Work Programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 is based on its initial zero draft of which key elements were presented during the FAO/WHO International Symposium held at FAO Rome on 1-2 December 2106.

Annex 1 - Activities Foreseen In CFS Engagement In Advancing Nutrition (CFS 2016/43/9)

1. POLICY CONVERGENCE

Activity	Who	When	Outcome
1.1 Prepare an HLPE report on Nutrition and Food Systems to set the basis for a multistakeholder consensus-driven process	HLPE	Report to be launched during CFS 44 in October 2017	Information base and evidence to determine priorities and nature of policy outcomes
1.2 Organize several events to develop common understanding of issues and lay the basis for informed CFS policy convergence work	CFS Secretariat	Intersessional period 2016/2017	Shared understanding of issues relevant to nutrition and food systems, as a preparatory step to policy convergence work
1.3 Discuss the HLPE zero draft report on Nutrition and Food Systems	OEWG on nutrition	Intersessional period 2016/2017	Comments submitted to HLPE on an individual and voluntary basis by OEWG participants
1.4 Discuss the work programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and identify CFS potential contribution in line with its mandate	OEWG on nutrition	Intersessional period 2016/2017 with approval at CFS 44 in October 2017 1)	Contribution to the implementation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition agreed by Plenary
1.5 Identify priorities and policy outcomes for policy convergence work based on the HLPE report on nutrition and food systems, lessons and good practices, and progress in achieving nutrition outcomes	OEWG on nutrition	Intersessional period 2017/2018 with approval at CFS 45 in October 2018	Terms of Reference agreed by Plenary (with scope, timeframe and resourcing requirements)
1.6 Develop policy products in priority areas	OEWG on nutrition	Commencing after CFS 45 in October 2018	Global consensus at Plenary on policy guidance, leading to increased policy convergence and coordinated action

2. LESSONS AND GOOD PRACTICE SHARING

Activity	Who	When	Outcome
2.1 Countries to share their lessons and good practices on selected themes, including through south-south and triangular exchanges	Countries, in collaboration with existing initiatives and platforms	Exchanges during intersessional periods and during Plenary week starting at CFS 44 in October 2017, at CFS 45 in October 2018 and then every two years	Improved understanding of what works at country level, to stimulate action and coordination, and guide scope and nature of policy convergence work

3. CFS PLATFORM FOR TRACKING PROGRESS

Activity	Who	When	Outcome
3.1 Provide space and setting to forthcoming progress tracking mechanisms to discuss progress in implementing policies and actions that are relevant to CFS work in nutrition	WHO/FAO on ICN2 Reshaped SOFI on SDGs	ICN2 reporting starting at CFS 44 Plenary in October 2017 and then every two years during the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), alternately with the lessons and good practice SOFI annual reporting starting in 2017	CFS is informed of progress in reducing malnutrition and actions associated with successes and failures, gaps and inconsistencies, which feeds policy convergence work and promotes coordination
3.2 Brief governing bodies on CFS work on nutrition as a contribution to ICN2 follow-up (based on CFS plenary reports)	CFS Chair	FAO Conference and WHO World Health Assembly every two years, starting in 2017	Improved multi-sectoral coordination with key intergovernmental bodies
3.3 Provide inputs to the HLPF on progress in nutrition as part of CFS work on SDGs	Secretariat, Bureau/AG, Plenary	To be determined, according to HLPF calendar	CFS contribution on nutrition to the global thematic review under HLPF