



# COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

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| <b>Thirty-ninth Session</b>                                       |
| <b>Rome, Italy, 15-20 October 2012-08-22</b>                      |
| <b>Agenda Item III.a</b>  |
| <b>POLICY ROUNDTABLE: SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR FOOD<br/>SECURITY</b> |
| <b>Matters to be brought to the attention of CFS</b>              |

## The Committee

1. Urges Member States to design and put in place or strengthen comprehensive and nationally-owned social protection systems for food security and nutrition, considering:

- The progressive development of comprehensive country-led social protection portfolios and action plans that ensure active stakeholder consultation;
- Countries' differences in terms of policy, institutions and financial capacity;
- The various components of social protection, including non-contributory social transfers or safety nets, insurance and access to social services and taking into account informal/traditional social protection mechanisms;
- Appropriate national assessments including food security and nutrition assessments, to ensure the inclusion of food and nutrition insecurity sensitive targeting and registration methods, institutional arrangements, delivery mechanisms, robust monitoring, accountability, and evaluation;
- Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination to ensure that social protection is integrated with broader food security and nutrition programming.

2. Calls upon Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that social protection systems pursue a "twin-track" strategy to maximise impact on resilience and food security and nutrition, through:
  - Provision of essential assistance in the short-term while simultaneously protecting or building productive assets that support livelihoods and human development in the long term.
  - Fostering increased agricultural productivity for the poor including through weather, crop and livestock insurance, farmer organizations and co-operatives for market access, public works that create agricultural assets, home-grown school feeding that purchases food from local smallholder farmers, food and/or cash transfers, agricultural livelihood packages and extension services.
  - Establishment of strong linkages between social protection and complementary sectors such as education, health, decent employment in rural areas and agriculture, and enhancing people's access to markets and financial services.
  
3. Urges Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to improve design and implementation of social protection interventions to address vulnerability to chronic and acute food insecurity, considering:
  - The importance of providing predictable and reliable access to social protection to those in need at any time of the year, and at particularly vulnerable stages of life;
  - That chronically vulnerable individuals, unable to participate in the workforce, might need permanent assistance, recognizing that not everyone can graduate out of food insecurity;
  - The need to adopt a life-cycle approach to nutrition, prioritizing social protection that addresses the critical "first 1,000 days" from pregnancy to 2 years old, including through providing access to social services, ensuring adequate knowledge of all relevant aspects of child care, and the provision of affordable and acceptable nutritious food products through the marketplace when possible;
  - Flexible mechanisms to monitor and adjust design features and modalities as appropriate;
  - Social protection systems should be designed in such a way that they can respond quickly to shocks such as droughts, floods and food price spikes, including adequate information.
  
4. Calls upon Member States to complement social protection programmes with policies guidelines, including legislation as appropriate, to support the fulfillment of human rights, particularly the progressive realization of the right to food and social security, through inter-alia:
  - The recognition of international human rights law and consideration of provisions recommended by the International Labour Conference on the Social Protection Floors. Social protection can be a catalyst for the fulfilment of other relevant international rights;
  - The grounding of social protection in national institutional frameworks and legislation, so that governments fulfil these basic human rights;
  - The adoption of a national right to food strategy to ensure food security and nutrition for all and the formulation of policies and corresponding benchmarks, based on human rights and consistent with international obligations.
  
5. Request the CFS Bureau, in consultation with the advisory Group and Secretariat, to promote policy coherence (including compliance with international obligations), lesson-sharing initiatives and monitoring of social protection programmes for food security and nutrition, through:
  - Facilitation and convening of lesson-sharing events on social protection for food security and nutrition, including complementing existing global and regional platforms.
  - Further exploration by the Rome-Based Agencies of the concept of a "food security floor", as laid out in the HLPE report, in consultation with relevant organizations such as the World Bank, ILO and others.

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- The CFS Open Working Group on Monitoring (OEWG-Monitoring) to identify the role of CFS in promoting effective monitoring and reporting of social protection programmes for food security and nutrition, such as through an Annual Social Protection Monitor, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and taking account existing monitoring mechanisms.
6. Requests the CFS OEWG-Monitoring to identify effective ways to monitor the progress in the implementation of the above recommendations.