

Workstreams and Activities Updates

*****These updates cover the period since the 06 April 2021 Bureau Meeting*****

1. CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSN)

The Secretariat continues to create awareness and foster utilization of the Voluntary Guidelines through targeted communications and outreach, and their promotion in relevant meetings as well as to appropriate partners.

- The two-page communication document on the Voluntary Guidelines is now available on the CFS webpage in [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [English](#) [French](#) [Portuguese](#) [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).
- The SUN movement, keeping with its pledge at CFS 47, has shared the 2-pager with its entire network encouraging members to use the Voluntary Guidelines in FSS dialogues and other engagements.
- A policy brief on similarities and common themes between the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition is under preparation and will be posted on the CFS webpage in the coming weeks.
- An online platform to serve as a one-stop shop for relevant materials and links to supporting materials and resources linked to the Guidelines is being produced by the CFS Secretariat. Further information on this will be provided soon.
- A series of events are being organized in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (World Health Organization, World Bank and World Trade Organization) to raise awareness and disseminate the Voluntary Guidelines among their constituencies. Agendas of these events will be shared with Bureau and Advisory Group members in due course.

2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

A first preliminary version of the Zero Draft of the *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition* was discussed with the Technical Task Team on 27 April 2021. The comments provided - during the meeting and subsequently in writing - will be incorporated into a revised version that will be shared with the OEWG for discussion at its next meeting.

The objective of the Zero Draft is to frame the discussions for the preparation of the First Draft of the VGs on GEWE expected to be finalized early next year. These discussions will take place in the course of summer and fall during the consultations in the regions (September-November 2021), the electronic consultation through the FAO Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (July-September) and OEWG meetings.

3. Data Workstream

CFS-HLPE Steering Committee selected the Team Leader for the CFS-HLPE Report #17 on data systems and analysis. A Technical Task Team, composed of interested (ad hoc) Advisory Group members, has been formed to organize an intersessional event planned for 1 July 2021.

4. Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Water and Climate Change for FSN

The Secretariat has published a call for experiences in the use and application of two sets of CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water in the context of food security and nutrition. The call is available on the FSN Forum (http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/CFS_climate_change_water) and there is still time to contribute to it until 15 June 2021. The inputs will inform a monitoring event to be held at CFS 49 Plenary Session in October 2021. We encourage all CFS Members and participants to respond to the call and share their experiences.

5. Chairperson's Outreach Activities

The Secretariat continued to support Chair's participation in numerous public events and meetings to advance knowledge of CFS, its multi-stakeholder model, and its policy products. Some of these engagements included:

- The 166th session of the Council of FAO, where the CFS Chair presented the final report of the CFS 47 Session.
- FAO's high-level dialogue on healthy diets between Asia, Africa and the Near East.
- Launch of the UN Nutrition discussion paper on the role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets.
- PSM high-level dialogues on Innovations and Gender organized as contribution to the UNFSS.
- Bilateral discussion with Japan's Vice-Minister of International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

CFS Chair also strengthened engagement in the Food Systems Summit's preparation, including his active participation in the Summit's Advisory Committee. He facilitated two meetings between the CSM, the UNFSS Special Envoy, and the Deputy UN Secretary General.

The Chair also took part in a two-day media training organized by FAO with the aim of providing him with additional media engagement and public speaking skills as he continues positioning CFS and its products.

6. HLPE Updates

- Steering Committee renewal: The Ad Hoc Technical Selection Committee met on 12 April and its deliberations (for decision) are captured in **Document Bur/2021/05/21/01**.
- The Steering Committee held a virtual meeting on 28-30 April 2021
- Report #16: "Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems": Seven peer-reviews were received and discussed by the Steering Committee with the Project Team Leader, Prof Hannah Wittman. The report is scheduled for launch on 5 July 2021.

- Report #17: “Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition”: The Steering Committee appointed Carlo Cafiero as Project Team Leader. The selection of the rest of the team is underway.

7. Update on the Informal OEWG on the Assessment of the CFS Effectiveness

The second OEWG of this learning exercise as to better understand opportunities to strengthen CFS outreach, communications, resource mobilization, and contribution towards achievement of the SDGs is foreseen for June, if the RBA calendar permits. The CFS Secretariat will provide a brief update at the B/AG meeting of July.

8. Communications and Outreach

- **Revamped CFS website in languages:** The revamped CFS website is now available in [Arabic](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#). Chinese and Russian versions to be completed in the coming weeks.
- **Guest articles:** To continue raising awareness of food security and nutrition policy issues and promote the work of the CFS, we have re-launched the CFS guest articles feature. For the next quarter (July-September 2021), we are inviting guests to submit articles on food systems and nutrition focusing on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.
- **Media and digital outreach:** We continue featuring and profiling CFS and its products on our social media assets especially Twitter which is recording increased engagement. We are also undertaking targeted media outreach with the following two articles referencing the work of CFS publish on [The Humanitarian](#) and on [Devex](#)
- We also continue promoting CFS products in relevant meetings and platforms.