CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise for the period January – December 2023

As per the agreed annual reporting exercise, members and ad-hoc Participants of the CFS Advisory Group were invited to provide feedback on the activities undertaken by them over the period January-December 2023, covering the following aspects:

I. Contribution to CFS activities

Describe the work your organization or constituency has carried out in support of various CFS intersessional and plenary activities (meetings, Technical Task Teams, Open-Ended Working Groups, Bureau/Advisory Group meetings, etc), including coordination activities and the exchange of information and consolidation of inputs between your constituency and CFS;

II. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

Provide examples of the use and application of CFS products (guidelines, recommendations, etc.) in your work programmes and describe the main elements of your outreach activities undertaken to disseminate CFS products;

III. Voluntary commitments for 2024

Present an overview of the work your organization or constituency intends to undertake in 2024 in support of CFS and to promote the use of existing CFS policy guidance;

IV. Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies

What suggestions do you have to enhance the interaction between the Committee and different relevant actors on the ground to increase knowledge about CFS work at country level?

V. Success stories (optional)

Describe how your organization or constituency has used a CFS product or products to improve the food security and nutrition situation of individuals, communities, etc. in furtherance of accomplishing SDG 2.

Reports were submitted by the following members and ad-hoc Participants of the CFS Advisory Group:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP);
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- UN Nutrition;
- World Health Organization (WHO);
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food;
- Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR);
- Civil Society and Indigenous People’s Mechanism (CSIPM);
- Private Sector Mechanism (PSM);
- Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism.
1. Contribution to CFS activities

As a member of the joint CFS Secretariat, FAO continues to provide:

- services to the joint CFS Secretariat, contributing at least 1/3 the costs for human and financial resources, as well as physically hosting the Secretariat
- most of the meeting venues, including for inter-sessional activities/events and CFS Plenary and associated side and other events
- OCC supports the branding of the rooms ensuring that each room is branded with the CFS visual by providing dimensions of the spaces available and looking at the content to be displayed;
- translation, interpretation, and conference services (messengers, security, IT support, etc.
- assistance for managing financial contributions and trust fund support for CFS activities
- FAO LEG provides legal advice to Plenary and Bureau and Advisory Group, as necessary.
- Through its Indigenous Peoples Unit (PSUI), FAO is hosting a Technical Working Group on Indigenous Peoples Collective Rights, which is based on the principles supported by the VGGT.
- FSN Forum provides services to the CFS High Level Panel on Experts, in particular by carrying out consultations (for example, on HLPE reports) and subsequently developing a report.

FAO actively participated in the joint Bureau and Advisory group meetings, open-ended working groups (OEWG) and other inter-sessional activities and provided substantial inputs to technical task teams (TTT) and to CFS 51 Plenary session, including:

- Led the preparation of the annual SOFI report, which gives members the possibility to make statements and ask questions.
- Worked closely with FAO management regarding World Food Day and CFS events
- Provided support to the organization of the Global Thematic Event on the CFS RAI during CFS 50
- Co-hosted, organized and facilitated numerous side events during CFS 51 including:
  - On “Right to adequate food”, highlighting the continued relevance of the VG-RtF in realizing the right to adequate food worldwide, featuring country experiences, good practices and challenges
  - On “Human rights-based approaches to global challenges and climate action for the Right to Adequate Food for all”, highlighting how a human rights-based approach driven by the right to adequate food can provide game changing solutions to the challenges agrifood systems are facing.
  - On “Global Dialogue on Water Tenure for water & food security, social inclusion, and climate resilience” in coordination with Germany, Australia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, Environmental Law Institute, International Water Management Institute, Rights and Resources Initiative, Water Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy Futures Centre of Nelson Mandela African
Institution of Science and Technology in Tanzania, AIIDA International Association for Water Law, German Institute of Development and Sustainability and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

- On “Just transition or green grabbing? Land-intensive climate action and protecting the sustainable food systems of IPs and LC”, with the Land Matrix Initiative (LMI), German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Global Land Observatory (FAO, ILC, CIRAD), Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI), International Land Coalition (ILC), The East Africa farmers’ Association, The Tenure Facility and Struggles for Land Forum.

- On “Tenure Security for All – the case for local and global action to advance implementation of the VGGT” in collaboration with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), International Land Coalition (ILC), The Struggles for Land Forum, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Land Portal Foundation and TMG Research.

- On “Global interlinkages dialogues”, organized and facilitated by UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, on strengthening the connections between CFS work, the Rio Conventions, and the broader ECOSOC led processes (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), particularly in relation to SDG 2. (session transcript: example_document.docx (fao.org))

- On “Forging Resilience – Harnessing evidence-based agrifood transformation for navigating multiple crises: insights from South Asia and the Horn of Africa”, “Nature based Solutions for decent rural employment in agrifood systems” and “Scaling up the implementation CFS policy instruments in time of climate crisis – The role of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDFF)”, with support from FAO RAP Office.

- On “Achieving gender equality, food security and nutrition: multi-stakeholder initiatives and approaches”, in collaboration with WFP, IFAD and UN Women, to reflect on the endorsement of the CFS VG-GEWGE and share good practices and experiences from the UN Joint Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE).

- on “Parliamentarians deliberate on the role of parliaments and parliamentary networks in the uptake and implementation of CFS policy products through legislation”

- Co-organizing CFS51 side event: “Scaling up the implementation of CFS policy instruments in a time of climate crisis: The role of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028”.

As co-convener of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), FAO submitted the fourth biennial report Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, which FAO presented at CFS51-Plenary Session IX, jointly with WHO.

Throughout 2023, FAO played a key role in the negotiations and endorsement process of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS VG-GEWGE). Together with the other Rome-based agencies (RBAs), FAO supported Member States to reach consensus and move towards the successful endorsement of the Guidelines, making it a landmark achievement.
In April 2023, FAO published The status of women in agrifood systems report which presents the latest evidence and data on gender inequalities in agrifood systems, illustrating structural gender disparities and intersecting drivers of socioeconomic inequality. The report also provides evidence of good practices and recommendations for strategic approaches and action that can inform the implementation of the CFS VG-GEWGE at different levels, including policymaking, programming and investing.

FAO also actively contributed to the development of:

- the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027;
- the report on “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation” through the Urban Food Systems (PPA BE4);
- the Agroecology Finance Assessment Tool through its participation to the Community of Practice focused on tracking finance flows to agroecology and the Agroecology Coalition, specifically within the Finance and Investment Working Group. This tool is designed to support the monitoring of the implementation of the 48th CFS Policy Recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches and is currently undergoing testing by CIFOR-ICRAF within the framework of the Agroecology Transformative Partnership Platform (TPP);
- In partnership with ILO and UNICEF, FOO continues to provide technical support for drafting the ASEAN declaration on Elimination of Child Labour.

FAO provided inputs and updates on the outcomes of the Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition (June 2023) to the joint CFS Bureau and Advisory group meetings, and has highlighted the potential that greater involvement of parliaments and parliamentary networks in CFS work could pose, both upstream and downstream.

FAO has also participated in the meetings and consultation of the CFS OEWG on the uptake of CFS Policy Products on the role of the UNDFF in contextualizing CFS products in a coordinated, participatory, multi-stakeholder manner as indicated by UN General Assembly par. 13 A/76/233 and FAO COAG Par. 18 COAG/2022/11, with reference to the Phase II of the CFS reform document (Par.23 -26 CFS: 2009/2 Rev 1) on the Linkages between CFS and the Regional and Country Levels.

2. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

FAO continues to support the uptake and application of CFS products through several outputs within its Strategic Framework, such as:

- the Regional Priority Programme on Transforming food systems and facilitating market access and integration in REU draws on and promotes the CFS Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition as referenced in its Theory of Change.
• the **REU Informal Consultation in May, 2023** included discussion on: "Consider the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, the Vision and Strategy for FAO’s Work in Nutrition, the Committee on World Food Security Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and the FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031 and promote the Urban Food Agenda and the Leave No One Behind principle." ([IC/23/2](https://icrave.org/)).

• The 43rd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture in September 2023, was dedicated to the sustainable use of land and water resources in Europe and Central Asia. One of the main discussions on Governance of tenure in the context of integrated land and water management in Europe and Central Asia also referred to CFS-VGGT ([ECA/43/23/5](https://eca.undp.org/)).

• Presenting the Global Dialogue on Water Tenure - drawing on the CFS VGGT as well as the recommendations of the CFS HLPE on water, food security and nutrition - at the UN Water Conference in New York in March 2023. The Dialogue features as one of the 8 commitments of FAO to the conference outcomes, the Water Action Agenda: [https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/global-dialogue-water-tenure-0](https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/global-dialogue-water-tenure-0) The government of Germany approved to support the global dialogue through a new 3-year project, which includes water tenure activities at national, regional and global levels.

• Publishing of a series of e-learning courses entitled Making agricultural investment and supply chains work for women and men to contribute to the application of the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS RAI), CFS VG-GEWGE, and other internationally recognized frameworks, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) and the United Nations Global Compact.

• Following the CFS VG-GEWGE’s endorsement, FAO started exploring fundraising and resource mobilization opportunities with different donors for the uptake of the Guidelines and submitted a proposal for funding. FAO identified awareness raising, communications and visibility, and capacity development as the priority areas of work to foster the implementation of the Guidelines.

FAO facilitated and supported the engagement of the CFS Chair at several events related to Right to Food, including:

• the Second National Conference on the Right to Adequate Food in Uganda held in Kampala, Uganda, from 18 to 19 April 2023, which took stock of the progress, challenges and opportunities for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the country.

• the 14th Policies against Hunger Conference, held in Berlin on 27 and 28 June 2023, organized by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), around the subject of human rights-based approaches to food systems transformation.
- Supported the engagement of representatives of two member states of the Group of Friends of the Right to Food (Germany and Brazil) to position the RtF in the UNFSS+2 stocktaking moment, and the organization of a side event on agrifood systems governance.

Regarding the promotion of the uptake and use of the VGGTs more specifically, FAO:

- supports capacity development of Multistakeholder Platforms members (in line with para 26.6 of VGGT) in Sierra Leone, Mali, Mauritania, Chad, Guinea Conakry;
- published an e-learning course on “Combining geospatial technology and participatory methods for securing tenure rights”;
- is producing a technical guide on “Land Tenure and Indigenous Peoples” to contextualize the VGGT after 10 years from their endorsement.
- in partnership with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the International Land Coalition (ILC), FAO engaged in the Global Land Observatory and started the drafting of the State of Land Tenure and Governance Report, to generate and make available data, evidence and analysis on the state of land tenure and governance in the world.
- Through its Investment Center, supported several countries in implementing land policy reforms and/or modernizing land administration in alignment with the VGGTs, specifically in Madagascar (land administration investment) Mozambique (MozLand/ Terra Segura Programme), Nicaragua (PRODEP, third phase), Colombia (Multi-purpose Cadaster), Benin (land administration project formulation). The VGGT were also disseminated at the regional learning exchange on investments in the recognition of indigenous and afro descendant’s territories in Latin America, in collaboration with the Tenure Facility, ILC, and FAO RLC.
- has developed an online toolkit to support the formulation and the development of M&E systems for Land Administration investment projects in which VGGT are promoted: https://www.fao.org/in-action/herramienta-administracion-tierras/en/

In relation to the CFS RAI, FAO:

- developed a new handbook “Promoting the application of the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Guidelines for Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry. A practical handbook for ASEAN parliamentarians”, together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), which highlights parliamentarians as key strategic change makers to boost responsible investments in the region. FAO co-organized the launch event of the handbook with IISD and AIPA in Viet Nam on 11 July 2023, during the AIPA Caucus meeting in the National Assembly of Viet Nam.
- continued to support the uptake of CFS-RAI (Principle 3) in Sierra Leone, by expanding its training programme to foster rural women’s engagement in RAI, and in Cambodia, Lao PDR and
Philippines, with national roadmaps for women’s and youth empowerment in RAI in ASEAN countries.

- supported the uptake among MSMEs, particularly those led by young agri-entrepreneurs (Principle 40), through a RAI Agri-accelerator hub, a technical and financial business acceleration programme which has benefitted small enterprises in Tunisia. This work includes engaging with business coaches and advisors from Mauritania and Tunisia through a RAI business acceleration toolkit.

- has contributed to the uptake of the CFS-RAI in Liberia by supporting the drafting and validation of a CFS-RAI aligned investment and investor screening tool which is due to be piloted in 2024.

Jointly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Danish Institute for Human Rights, FAO organized a parallel session “Small-Scale Fisheries in Asia: Protecting Indigenous Peoples’ rights” during the UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum. The ‘Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security’ served as a valuable reference for these discussions.

Across its country programmes and through regional collaborations and advocacy activities, FAO continued to support countries in line with the work areas covered by the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition. Priority has been given to the policy areas of youth engagement and collective action, youth employment and agripreneurship, skills development and access to finance, green jobs, rural migration, and child labour.

Through its Investment Center, during the WFF 2023, FAO organized jointly with RAF a side event on ‘Promoting Youth-Centred Investments in Africa’ where the Investment Toolkit for youth in agrifood systems in Africa (developed with ESP and RAF) was promoted. These youth engagement guidelines are also promoted in project designs, integrating youth as key beneficiary stakeholders who will benefit from activities of the projects.

Through its Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, FAO is actively supporting the development of ASEAN policy guidelines on agroecology transition. This involves direct collaboration with ASEAN member countries, aligning the efforts with the 13 principles of agroecology outlined by the HLPE of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). These guidelines are anticipated to be submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat for approval by the end of 2024.

In line with the 44th CFS Policy Recommendations on “Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition” and promotion of the RAI and the VGGT, FAO supported Lao PDR in holding a national policy dialogue and developing a publication on applying responsible land-based investment models in forestry. In the Pacific Islands, FAO organized a South-South Learning Exchange for representatives from the government, non-government organizations, private sector, universities and research institutions on
improving customary tenure and governance of forests, involving six countries: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Soloman Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

3. **Voluntary commitments for 2024**

A regional FAO project on “Transforming agrifoods systems in Europe and Central Asia” is building capacities and knowledge on holistic food systems transformation, and facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices through regional workshops promoting the use of CFS guidelines and policy recommendations (including the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition), and discussing regional issues such as true cost accounting. Evidence will be generated on policy coherence and trade-offs in practice and on the role and specificities of urban environments as key entry points for transformation and SDG localization. A regional workshop is planned in Budapest from 21 to 23 May for 8 programme countries, with a session to promote CFS Guidelines on food systems and nutrition, and raising awareness of other CFS policy products.

UN Food Systems Coordination Hub is exploring the possibility of jointly (with FAO, IFAD and WFP as co-organisers) organizing a side event with CSF during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July in New York. The proposed event aims to build upon the past collaborations between the Hub and the CFS during the HLPF in 2022 and 2023 on supporting Pathways implementation.

Through its Investment Center, FAO plans to promote the Investment Toolkit for youth in agrifood systems in Africa (developed with ESP and RAF) and identify opportunities to train policymakers, and other stakeholders, and to apply the toolkit in promoting youth-responsive agrifood system investment programmes. In collaboration with FAO RLC, and other international organizations, FAO Investment Center is developing the second phase of the regional learning event to guide future investment operations on land administration in Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant territories with lessons learned and recommendations.

As part of the Global Dialogue on Water Tenure, FAO will facilitate a series of regional and sectoral dialogues. A first regional dialogue will be organized in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2024, as part of the International Water and Soil Forum.

FAO also plans to:

- Pursue its resource mobilization efforts with the objective of designing and implementing a fully-fledged programme to support selected countries in the implementation of the CFS VG-GEWGE.
- pursue its commitment to raise awareness and enhance the understanding of the CFS VG-GEWGE among Member States, civil society organizations, academia, and development partners, in close collaboration with the CFS Secretariat;
- Organize and plan, in collaboration with the CFS Secretariat, the Global Thematic Event on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate
Food at CFS52. The Event will include the presentation of the “Stocktaking report on the implementation of the VG-RtF twenty years after their adoption by member states”;

- Elaborate, in close collaboration with the LTT team in ESP and the RAI team in PSU and with BMEL funding, a joint assessment on factors of success and hindrance in the uptake of selected CFS products worldwide, drawing lessons learned to improve CFS effectiveness in that regard, with particular emphasis on implementation of policy recommendations on the ground.
- Organize a series of dialogues to strengthen coordination between key actors based in Rome (global food and agriculture hub) and in Geneva (global human rights hub) in advancing the uptake and use of the VG-RtF.
- produce a guidance document covering factors of both success and challenges for the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food, the VGGT and the RAI Principles.
- produce an e-learning course dedicated to participatory methods and geospatial technologies for securing Indigenous Peoples land rights.
- Present an overview of the State of Land Tenure and Governance Report during CFS 52.
- Develop a report “The Status of Rural Youth in Agrifood Systems,” to be launched in 2025.
- Support the CFS in the MYPoW 2024-2027 workstream on the role and rights of agriculture and food systems workers, by highlighting the key role of decent work in agriculture and food systems and discussing synergies between existing CFS policy guidance and the ILO Policy Guidelines for the Promotion of Decent Work in the Agri-food Sector (adopted in May 2023 in Geneva; FAO participated as Observer).
- In the framework of an ongoing agreement with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), FAO is planning two capacity development workshops with AIPA Parliamentarians in April and July 2024. The aim is to enhance AIPA MPs’ understanding of responsible investments in agriculture, food and forestry, emphasizing their role in promoting such investments within ASEAN and developing an Implementation Framework that outlines specific activities and focus areas for parliamentarians to implement the ASEAN RAI by 2030.
- Expand its pool of skilled district-level trainers in Sierra Leone and deliver a new series of RAI training and dialogue events.
- Expand the RAI Agri-accelerator to Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal, and scale-up interventions in Tunisia with 500 additional businesses benefitting.

4. Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies

Through its Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, in March 2023 FAO organized the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Food Systems Convenors in the Asia and the Pacific region, designed to serve as a platform for sharing of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in the operationalization and implementation of the National Pathways. The “CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)” were used as an important source to identify priority actions and key messages for the region. The next regional meeting of Convenors will be in April 2024.
FAO also facilitated the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Regional Networking Group of Food Systems as a part of the Asia-Pacific regional inter-agency collaboration architecture. The Group will help strengthen the ability of the Asia-Pacific RCP to coordinate actions and pool resources of UN organizations on food systems transformation; provide a coherent and convergent messaging to member countries under the ONE UN umbrella, and ensure the delivery and management of high-quality technical support on food systems transformation that is properly integrated and complimented by other areas of work of member UN agencies.

Strengthen the collaboration between the UN food systems Hub and the CFS by recognizing the CFS's pivotal role as a global policy convergence platform within the UN System and beyond, and utilizing the CFS's extensive portfolio of endorsed integrated policy frameworks and evidence-based recommendations spanning over twenty cross-cutting themes, such as land tenure governance, climate resilience, youth engagement, and nutrition. Establish regular communication channels to facilitate knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and coordinated action in addressing food security challenges. This can include fostering collaboration through joint mutual participation in events and meetings, and the exploration of synergies between individual sectoral entry points advocated by CFS's policy frameworks. By maximizing the complementary strengths of both entities, enhance the effectiveness and impact of policies and actions aimed at advancing sustainable food systems on a global scale.

Deepen the alignment of strategies between the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the UN Food Systems Hub by leveraging CFS's diverse expertise and extensive network. Foster collaboration through joint mutual participation in events and meetings, and the exploration of synergies between individual sectoral entry points advocated by CFS's policy frameworks. By maximizing the complementary strengths of both entities, enhance the effectiveness and impact of policies and actions aimed at advancing sustainable food systems on a global scale.

The first Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition called for the CFS to establish appropriate mechanisms for the representation of parliamentarians actively involved in the fight against hunger and malnutrition in CFS sessions and their strong engagement as key drivers for the implementation of CFS instruments and policy documents. This aligns with discussions between FAO and the CFS Secretariat on the establishment of a joint programme aimed at raising awareness and building capacities among parliamentarians worldwide to promote the uptake and implementation of CFS policy products through national legislation, and a project proposal seeks funding for these efforts.

As part of the UNDFF implementation process, FAO works closely with family farmer organizations – including smallholder family farmers, fisherfolks, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples – at national and regional levels to build and strengthen supportive policies, investments and institutional frameworks for family farming at local, national and international levels. This is based on inclusive and effective governance and on timely and geographically relevant data. FAO works closely with IFAD, as FAO and IFAD form the Joint-Secretariat of the UNDFF.
5. Success stories

In Lao People's Democratic Republic, FAO used the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) to advance the national agenda on transforming food systems as a follow up to the UN Food Systems Summit. The Department of Planning and Cooperation (DOPC) / the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) plays a pivotal role in working alongside FAO and other UN agencies to develop the National Plan of Actions on Sustainable Food System in Laos, using the VGFSyN as a guide.

To facilitate this critical process, DOPC/MAF, with the support of FAO and funding received from the FAO Food Coalition, has conducted a series of consultations across the country to identify key priorities and gather valuable recommendations that will serve as a crucial contribution to the development of the National Plan of Actions on Sustainable Food Systems in Laos. The VGFSyN was perceived a useful resource to support the development of this national plan. Having used the VGFSyN, Laos could take a comprehensive approach to food systems transformation that considers various factors and prioritize actions that are tailored to its unique context and needs. The VGFSyN encouraged multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration, including with local communities, farmers, consumers, and civil organizations.

The Global Dialogue on Water Tenure was highlighted in the press as a notable commitment: [https://enb.iisd.org/un-2023-water-conference/highlights-and-images-24-march-2023?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ENB%20Update%2020%2525%20March%202023&utm_content=ENB%20Update%2020%2525%20March%202023+CID_e74db784e0965991ee9bc319d2c040e2&utm_source=cm&utm_term=Read%20highlights%20and%20images](https://enb.iisd.org/un-2023-water-conference/highlights-and-images-24-march-2023?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ENB%20Update%2020%2525%20March%202023&utm_content=ENB%20Update%2020%2525%20March%202023+CID_e74db784e0965991ee9bc319d2c040e2&utm_source=cm&utm_term=Read%20highlights%20and%20images)


For World Water Day 2024, the UN observance website featured the FAO water tenure story as relevant for the peace and prosperity theme of 2024: [https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day](https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day)

FAO also published a story and video featuring its work in support to groundwater governance in Morocco:

Water sharing: From underground to common ground

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=linOAE-NLF8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=linOAE-NLF8)

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) adopted a Resolution on “Encouraging the Application of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors” during the 44th General Assembly, held on 5-11 August 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The
Resolution, sponsored by Viet Nam, calls on AIPA Member Parliaments to support the application of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ASEAN RAI) to drive sustainable economic growth and achieve food and nutrition security in the region.

In the Dominican Republic, new proposed laws on family farming, public procurement and school feeding have been developed in the wake of the adoption of the national action plan. Advocacy, education and awareness-raising activities conducted during the biennium have promoted specific criteria to identify family farmers and their inclusion in government and private sector procurement processes. The legal framework supports the development of a comprehensive strategy to implement coordinated policies to improve family farmers’ connections to markets and foster their inclusion in new markets related to agritourism and recreation.

In Liberia, Government representatives and key stakeholders reviewed and validated the investment and investors screening tool recommending its application to ensure investment in agriculture is responsible.

Tunisian young agri-entrepreneurs received technical support by specialized coaches to make their investments more responsible as per the CFS-RAI Principles. Watch a video about the participants here.

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is jointly supported by the United Nations’ Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) – FAO, IFAD, and WFP – a further example showcasing their productive collaboration. Since 2019, the RBAs are ex-officio and extra-quota members (i.e., permanent members) of the CFS Advisory Group. In 2023, WFP was actively involved in executing the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023, supporting the development of the MYPoW 2024-2027, while continuing to furnish financial, technical, and staffing assistance to the CFS. WFP’s engagement in and support for the Committee is overseen at Director level (including WFP’s representation in the CFS Advisory Group), with the support of a staff member, under overall guidance at Assistant Secretary-General level.

WFP’s dedicated capacity for CFS establishes a systematic coordination mechanism and bidirectional communication between WFP and the CFS Secretariat. This ensures the expeditious dissemination of information and requests related to CFS within WFP, while simultaneously consolidating WFP’s technical inputs and streamlining their submission to CFS.

Throughout 2023, WFP staff members at all levels and in all regions have been encouraged, facilitated, and robustly engaged in the CFS workstreams on Gender, Data, and MYPoW 2024-2027 preparation. A range of WFP stakeholders, including at country level, proactively contributed and provided strategic inputs, technical advice, and support to the various CFS areas of work.

1. Contribution to CFS activities
In the course of 2023, WFP:

- Contributed to the work and strategic direction of CFS through active participation: i) as a Member of the Advisory Group to the Bureau; ii) in Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWGs) and Technical Task Teams (TTTs) of various workstreams; iii) in related intersessional activities, as well as; iv) identifying relevant technical staff for specific workstreams in order to contribute substantive and insightful inputs to CFS processes.

- Contributed to the ‘substantive segment’ of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting in January. WFP Chief Economist provided BAG members with an update on the status of the food security situation, focused on humanitarian aspects, including WFP’s efforts to respond to the global food crisis.

- Engaged in the 51st Plenary Session of the Committee (CFS 51), and its preparatory processes, at all levels, including by:
  - Executive Director’s statement in the high-level opening ceremony.
  - Director level participation and statements in the Plenary sessions.
  - Participating, as a panel member, in the Plenary session on Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Social Protection, providing keynote remarks (alongside AMIS Chair) on ‘WFP’s role in strengthening social protection to address food insecurity and malnutrition’.
  - Co-organizing/hosting, with a wide range of partners, the following 7 of the 36 side events that were held over the five-day CFS 51:
    i. “Nourishing Connections – Multistakeholder Synergies for Scaling-Up Food Security and Nutrition through Social Protection Systems” (recording/summary);
    ii. “Nourishing Progress – Reflecting on a Decade of Social Protection Innovations and Thinking for Zero Hunger” (recording/summary);
    iii. “Achieving Gender Equality, Food Security and Nutrition: Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives and Approaches” (recording/summary);
    iv. “Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Finance for Food Systems Transformation” (recording/summary);
    vi. “Promoting Energy Access to Safeguard Food Security and Nutrition Gains within the Agrifood Systems and Beyond” (recording/summary).
    vii. “Zero Hunger in Colombia and Ecuador: a Commitment to End Food Insecurity and Building Peace” (recording/summary).
  - Providing inputs and technical support, including at Senior and Director Level, to the intersessional workstreams and related activities leading up to CFS 51: (i) Gender; (ii) Data; (iii) MYPoW 2024-2027.
Co-leading the development of the 2023 SOFI report “Urbanization, Agrifood Systems Transformation and Healthy Diets Across the Rural-Urban Continuum”, which guided the discussion at the CFS 51 inaugural day.

Organizing, on the margins of CFS 51, an evening discussion at FAO on ‘Leaving No One Behind: Social Protection for Zero Hunger’, co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Canada to the RBAs. The event focused on the role of social protection in advancing food security and nutrition outcomes, and food systems transformation, while addressing inequalities and vulnerabilities. Participants included representatives from governments, international organizations, academia, civil society, as well as experts in the fields of food security, nutrition, social inclusion, and social protection.

Continued to engage in and contribute to the final phase of the CFS workstream on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, drawing on WFP’s work and expertise on gender, including through:

- Participating, at technical and senior level, in the TTT, Friends of the Chair, and OEWG meetings, including hosting an OEWG meeting at WFP Auditorium in March.
- Participating in the negotiation sessions, providing technical support/advice, as appropriate.
- Delivering statement during the CFS 51 Plenary Session on ‘Empowering Women and Girls and Promoting Gender Equality’ that formally endorsed the Guidelines.

Engaged in and supported the CFS workstream on Data, drawing on WFP’s work and expertise on data for FSN, including through:

- Participating, at technical level, in the TTT and OEWG meetings.
- Participating in the negotiation sessions, providing technical support/advice, as appropriate.
- Delivering statement during the CFS 51 Plenary Session on ‘Leveraging the Use of Data for Advancing Food Security and Nutrition’ that formally endorsed the Policy Recommendations.

Engaged in and supported the development process of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027, including through:

- Attending OEWG meetings and actively engaging in BAG discussions.
- RBA preliminary proposals on “Multi-level, integrated and collaborative governance for more effective, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems” and “The role and rights of agriculture and food systems workers” as thematic workstreams.
- Delivering statement during the CFS 51 Plenary Session on ‘CFS Strategic Direction Toward 2030’ that formally endorsed the CFS MYPoW 2024-2027.

Contributed to the following HLPE e-consultations and calls for submissions, mobilizing substantive work and staff time, including beyond HQ:

- Use and application of CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Social Protection (1, 2).

Supported dialogue between the CFS Chairperson and RBA New York Directors through a meeting held in March in New York.
Continued coordinating and engaging, alongside FAO and IFAD, with the CFS Chairperson and CFS Secretary in support of intensified dialogue on CFS matters, including through two meetings of the ‘CFS RBA Focal Points’, held in January and May, to discuss priorities of the RBAs in CFS and effective RBA-CFS collaboration.

Continued overseeing the final year of the implementation of the project “Strengthening governance of food security and nutrition through the CFS”, whereby the European Union provides financial support to the CFS Secretariat, HLPE, and CSIPM.

2. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

CFS policy work has the legitimacy and value-added of being consensus and evidence based.

WFP’s multi-year Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) not only echo and reinforce principles embedded in the CFS policy products, but also provide a concrete framework to advance their use and application.

WFP de facto applies CFS policy products across its own policies, strategies, and operations, while seeking to promote best practices in this regard.

Based on the CFS-FFA Principles, the RBA Resilience Initiative, funded by Canada, was designed and implemented to strengthen the resilience of livelihoods in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Somalia. In particular, the adoption and adaptation of the CFS-FFA were made a precondition for countries to be included in the initiative.

In 2023, WFP continued to regularly and timely channel all communications/correspondence from the CFS and HLPE Secretariats to relevant HQ divisions and field offices on a case-by-case basis, particularly regarding requests for inputs to CFS workstreams and HLPE e-consultations.

WFP Senior Managers are sensitized to CFS’ work on a regular basis. Reports and highlights from CFS meetings – including the bi-monthly CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings – were regularly prepared and shared with WFP Senior Management, Directors, as well as relevant divisions/decentralized offices, to keep them abreast of CFS work.

The outcomes of CFS work were cited/used, where appropriate, in relevant WFP meetings, publications and briefing notes.

CFS was referenced in WFP’s “Global Initiatives Paper”, which provides an overview of WFP’s engagement with the various global initiatives and fora aimed at addressing the global food crisis.

Webcast of CFS meetings and events – including CFS 51 – as well as information about CFS workstreams and policy products, were advertised on WFP intranet.

Ahead of CFS 51, all relevant information, background documents and registration details were made available with WFP staff globally.

WFP continued to raise awareness of and disseminate relevant CFS policy instruments/outcomes and related information within the Organization at all levels.

RBA collaboration on CFS was reported on in the 2023 “Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies” (‘Committee on World Food Security’, page 5), which was submitted to the second regular session of WFP Executive Board in November 2023.
CFS Policy Recommendations on Social Protection

- In January 2021, the call for inputs, launched by CFS, on the use and application of two sets of CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Social Protection was widely shared in WFP. This endeavor also helped further raising awareness of these two sets of CFS policy recommendations amongst WFP staff.
- From January-May 2021, two relevant HQ Divisions – namely the Nutrition Division and the Social Protection Unit – were particularly engaged and provided with support and guidance in view of their potential contribution to this call.
- WFP’s contribution to this call – “Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection: WFP Support to Ethiopia and Pakistan” (see section V) – showcased the relevance of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Social Protection to WFP’s work while highlighting the following key points:
  o The World Food Programme (WFP) supported national governments to use the CFS policy recommendations to prioritize actions that maximize the impact of social protection (SP) programmes on food security, healthy diets, and nutrition.
  o In Ethiopia, WFP supported national efforts with Fresh Food Vouchers (FFV) to foster integrated food system activities, including increased production of nutritious foods by smallholder farmers and market development activities.
  o In Pakistan, WFP supported national efforts to establish strong linkages between the SP and health sectors, to enhance women’s and children’s access to health and nutrition services and healthy diets.
  o In both countries, the collaboration between WFP and the government around the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis contributed to strengthening of national assessments and informing programme design that prioritizes the first 1,000 days.
  o In Ethiopia, although efforts have already been made to strengthen linkages between SP and food systems, the CFS policy recommendations can be further leveraged to mobilize funding and commitments to implement those changes at scale across sectors and involving key national stakeholders.
  o In Pakistan, the CFS policy recommendations can be further leveraged to strengthen the country’s capacity to provide integrated food security and complementary service packages that provide essential assistance, and support livelihoods and resilience building.
- WFP’s contribution was referenced in the CFS Secretariat’s analysis of the contributions received through the aforementioned call for inputs, which informed the relevant Monitoring Session at CFS 51.

3. Voluntary commitments for 2024

- CFS represents one of the pillars of RBA collaboration. WFP is committed to continue supporting and engaging in the CFS, alongside the other RBAs - FAO and IFAD.
• WFP will continue to work closely with the CFS Secretariat and all CFS stakeholders, through the provision of expertise and competencies to inform CFS’ efforts and processes.

• In 2024, WFP will continue to actively participate in the Technical Task Team in charge of supporting the drafting of the CFS Policy Recommendations on ‘Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition’.

• WFP will also robustly engage in the Technical Task Team that will support the process of the CFS Thematic Workstream on ‘Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises’.

• WFP – alongside FAO and IFAD – will continue supporting the CFS Chairperson’s endeavors to increase the visibility of the Committee and its work beyond Rome (e.g., in New York through WFP NY Office), as well as foster engagement with relevant stakeholders at all levels.

• WFP will explore the possibility of organizing a session with its the Executive Board (EB) – including as part of the EB’s agenda – on the CFS and WFP’s engagement therein, while seeking EB’s views and suggestions on how WFP can further promote the implementation and uptake of CFS policy products, translating them into concrete actions at country level to improve food security and nutrition for all people.

• WFP will also explore the opportunity for the CFS Chairperson to attend a WFP event at HQ, including potentially in one of the Executive Board sessions.

• CFS policy products on themes of direct relevance to WFP and its stakeholders will continue to be used in various fora as a basis to advance the food security and nutrition agenda.

• Depending on the country’s contexts and priorities, relevant CFS policy products will continue to be duly considered when developing Country Strategic Plans (CSPs), as well as in WFP’s policy dialogue efforts.

• WFP will continue advocating for the role of the ‘Coalition of Action for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems’ in promoting awareness and utilization of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN). The Coalition, among other goals, aims to promote the implementation of the VGFSyN at country level, through complementary actions, advocacy, and engagement with CFS.

• WFP will continue to be engaged in the implementation of the current CFS MYPoW 2024-2027, including the ongoing policy development process on Reducing Inequalities, the Uptake workstream, as well as the planned thematic workstream on “Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises”.

• More CFS meetings and the launch of HLPE reports could be hosted by WFP HQ and be live webcast both in Rome and in the field. This would in turn help raise the profile of CFS and HLPE within WFP.

• WFP will continue to actively contribute to the Bureau and Advisory Group (BAG) meetings by updating/briefing BAG Members on its work for improved food security and nutrition at country level.

• In doing so, WFP’s analytical and monitoring tools and products (i.e., Hunger Map, Cost of Hunger/Cost of Diet/Fill the Nutrient Gap reports, etc.), among others, could be used as reference.
WFP, working with FAO and the EU, is available to provide an overview of the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC), and its annual Global Report on Food Crises (2024 report will be launched on April 24), during one of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, as one of its ‘substantive segments’. This is particularly relevant in light of the soon-to-be-initiated CFS workstream on “Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises”, which foresees, among others, GNAFC’s engagement in one of its meetings.

4. Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies

General remarks and suggestions

- CFS is a unique platform for learning, sharing experiences and catalyzing the implementation and investments needed by countries and their partners to achieve the 2030 Agenda and, particularly, SDG 2.
- The political and strategic leadership role of the CFS Chair - along with his/her outreach efforts - is key to raise the CFS’ profile at all levels, strengthen the interaction with relevant FSN actors on the ground, as well as increase the knowledge about CFS work in different fora at global, regional, and country level.
- Side/Special Events organized by CFS during the HLPF sessions in New York, FAO Regional Conferences, Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin, UN COPs, and UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moments in Rome, are a major opportunity to showcase the relevance of CFS work and its policy products to a global multi-stakeholder audience.
- Side events held on the margins of CFS Plenaries are good examples of vibrant interaction among CFS Members and stakeholders, as well as a strategic opportunity to reflect on context specific issues and share ideas for an effective application of CFS policy products.
- In 2024, CFS should explore ways to further engage in key global fora and related processes (such as the UN Summit of the Future in September), building on its role as global platform for policy convergence. This would provide CFS with a strategic opportunity to further raise its profile and the importance of its work.
- It is crucial that CFS ensures a solid and systematic connection to country level, namely relevant Ministries (e.g., Food and Agriculture, Health, etc.) through its Member Countries, as well as regional and country networks through its Advisory Group Members. CFS’ inclusive platform can provide the safe space needed to share ideas and best practices.
- Outreach events and thematic webinars can enhance the interaction between CFS and the different relevant FSN actors on the ground, as well as increase the knowledge of CFS and its policy products at country and regional level.
- Use and uptake, adoption, and adaptation to context of CFS policy products are also opportunities for sound programming.
The awareness of CFS policy products could be raised by looking into the CFS Communication Strategy, which outlines ways to target not only UN agencies, aid and development organizations, civil society, and food security organizations, but also academic institutions, media, and members of the general public.

CFS should continue to provide guidance to countries on the use of CFS policy products at country level, including by sharing successful country experiences and facilitating exchanges among CFS stakeholders in this respect and within relevant fora.

The CFS Secretariat should continue disseminating the “CFS quarterly newsletters”, as well as developing information briefs on the Committee’s work and its policy products, when appropriate, to support and facilitate CFS stakeholders’ interaction with their constituencies and relevant actors on the ground.

It is key to further strengthen CFS social media presence by engaging in regular use of Instagram, X, Facebook, and LinkedIn platforms. This would be particularly useful when it comes to reaching younger generations and future policymakers. This would require accessible formats of policy documents without the use of jargon, and instead sharing blogs, infographics, as well as short articles and videos (no longer than 1:30 minute).

It would also be important for CFS to establish connections with academic institutions - particularly those with a nutrition focus - and international development departments and centers at universities. This would be an effective outreach strategy to promote CFS policy products to students, as often universities have dedicated blog pages and distribute regular e-newsletters, which could be used to spread awareness of CFS and its policy work.

The HLPE, as the science-policy interface of CFS, is an integral part of the Committee. The HLPE should continue to accompany the launch of its reports with short documents containing the reports’ main findings and recommendations with a set of key messages which can be disseminated to a wide and non-technical audience.

**Bureau and Advisory Group Members**

- CFS Members, with the support of all CFS stakeholders, have the necessary convening power to take up a leading role in outreach and awareness raising activities (e.g., workshops, webinars, seminars, etc.) at regional and country level.

- A systematic linkage and coordination between the Permanent Representations in Rome and capitals should be strengthened to ensure that relevant Ministries are aware of the CFS work and policy products – as well as their potential impact on the national policy-making processes – especially when interacting with partners at country level.

- The establishment of a framework for the preparation of regular updates to FAO Regional Groups, including the biannual FAO Regional Conferences, on the main activities of CFS represents a key breakthrough in this context.
- Technical dialogues and thematic webinars could also be convened between Rome Permanent Representations and Missions based in UN hubs, under the umbrella of and facilitated by the CFS, intensifying existing engagement.

- Advisory Group members should:
  - Ensure timely correspondence, including through periodic updates, on all CFS-related matters.
  - Further actively engage in the Advisory Group, OEWGs and TTTs, as appropriate.
  - Strengthen internal communications and preparation to CFS processes/activities.
  - Enhance advocacy efforts and disseminate the results of CFS work through various channels (e.g., publications, meetings, seminars, etc.).

5. Success stories

Use of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Social Protection to improve FSN in furtherance of accomplishing SDG 2

WFP has supported the governments of Ethiopia and Pakistan to use the CFS Policy Recommendations on Social Protection to prioritize actions that maximize the impact of social protection (SP) programmes on food security, healthy diets, and nutrition.

**TARGET**

Food insecure families’ children aged 6-24 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G).

**MAIN ACTIVITIES**

- In Ethiopia, in line with the Seqota Declaration, WFP - in close collaboration with national authorities - provided Fresh Food Vouchers (FFV) and social behavior change (SBC) activities, complementing the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) national SP programme. WFP also trained national authorities on the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) cost and affordability analytical component. In 2023, WFP contracted over 300 fresh food retailers across 34 markets in 19 districts to supply diversified nutrient-dense fresh foods to targeted PBWG. To enhance the capacity of traders to meet increased demand of nutritious food, WFP trained retailers and established market support teams (who coordinate regular price and market monitoring, food quality assurance, and address concerns of beneficiaries).

- In Pakistan, WFP worked with the government to define a nutrition package to complement the national SP programme with 1) conditional cash transfers to increase uptake of preventive health and nutrition services, and 2) the provision of specialized nutritious foods (SNFs).

**RESULTS**

*Short-term:*
In Ethiopia, in 2023, 143,890 children aged 6-23 months and PBW/G received a FFV, and 664,740 people received SBC to promote nutrient-dense foods and improve dietary diversity.

In Pakistan, in 2023, the flagship Nashonuma Programme - introduced to complement the national SP programme - was further scaled. By early 2024, the programme, which provides a conditional cash transfer and a nutritious food supplement to pregnant and breastfeeding women and 6-23 months old children (of households participating in the social protection programme) for attending preventive health and nutrition services, has reached 1.8 million beneficiaries across all districts of the country. The programme is now implemented through 516 facilitation centers, including 37 mobile units, in 158 districts. Also, associated service delivery trainings were given to over 1,500 government officials.

Medium- to long-term:

In Ethiopia, in 2022, the distribution of FFV and SBC contributed to improve dietary diversity: the Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) increased to 66 percent, from 18 percent in 2021. The Minimum Diet Diversity for Women (MDDW) increased to 76 percent, from 27.5 percent in 2021.

In Pakistan, the programme was informed by a research study conducted in 2019, that found a 15% reduction in the prevalence of stunting and other forms of malnutrition in children who received cash transfers, SBC and SNF between 6-23 months. Over the period 2024-2026, 1.7 million safety net beneficiaries will receive an integrated package of food, health, supplementary cash, and nutrition interventions to prevent chronic malnutrition.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

1. Contribution to CFS activities

IFAD’s role within the CFS is to provide strategic guidance around its objectives and workplan. IFAD works closely with the CFS to support the formulation of policy recommendations, participate in the Committee’s Advisory Group, and lend IFAD staff expertise to the related technical workstreams and open-ended working groups to support the development of the Committee’s Multi-Year Programme of Work. IFAD poses great importance in its engagement with the CFS and all its constituencies. For 2023, IFAD strategically engaged in the CFS in various aspects:

(i) Contribution to CFS's strategic direction. During Bureau and Advisory Group (B/AG) meetings, IFAD, in its capacity as advisory member, actively contributed to discussions around food security and nutrition, providing valuable input in development of the MYPoW 2024-2027, planning of the CFS 51 Plenary, shaping and negotiations of key ongoing workstreams (data and gender in particular, see next point).

(ii) Contribution to the development, operationalization and promotion of CFS products. IFAD provided technical support for the development of CFS policy products and workstreams. Through these products,
it is able to translate global policy advice and guidance into country-level guidelines and recommendations. Moreover, it has explicitly referenced the CFS products in its action plans and training toolkits to increase awareness of these products. IFAD is also committed to assisting Member States in utilizing CFS products, when relevant and applicable. IFAD technical staff actively participated in working groups and negotiations related to CFS workstreams (i.e., data and gender), collaborating with the other RBAs, Member States and constituencies (e.g., Private Sector Mechanism, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) to ensure the development of sound policy products.

a. With particular reference to the development of the 2024-2027 MYPOW, IFAD has actively contributed to the shaping and content of the document, by providing key input and technical expertise with regards to the proposed workstreams, such as those around financing for food security and nutrition; decent work and living incomes and wages; collaborative governance; use and uptake of CFS products; reducing inequalities, indigenous peoples and family farming, etc.

b. With regards to the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment, during the second round of negotiations, which led to the approval of the VGs during CFS51, IFAD provided clarifications and inputs to respond to specific questions raised during the negotiations, particularly on how to advance gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and women’s empowerment. The RBAs also released a joint statement during the second round of negotiations, stressing the importance of the guidelines and reiterating their support for their finalization.

c) For the CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security, IFAD provided technical expertise, stressed the importance of capturing data for food systems transformation (in particular on climate and gender) and underscored that investments in data production and improved methodology that enable data interoperability are essential; that country ownership of the process and political will are key to promoting data use and can be achieved by supporting countries in strengthening their capacity for data analysis and interpretation; and finally, that agreement is needed on what data are useful, further discussions on FSN data governance and what incentives can be created to encourage those involved to act together.

(iii) Promotion of rural transformation and sustainable investment in smallholder farmers. IFAD’s active participation in and contribution to CFS plenaries emphasizes its comparative advantage in inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. IFAD has also been instrumental in ensuring that the voices of rural people are brought to the forefront of CFS discussion. IFAD and the other RBAs played a key role in the organization and shaping of CFS 51, contributing also with keynote speakers and technical interventions.
a. IFAD’s delegation was represented by President Lario, who delivered opening remarks highlighting IFAD’s continued support to the CFS, its crucial role and the need to invest in rural people and work jointly to ensure food security and nutrition for all.

b. In the session on Empowering Women and Girls and Promoting Gender Equality: Endorsement and Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment (GEWE) in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, Jyotsna (Jo) Puri, AVP SKD, in her statement, highlighted the importance of the guidelines, and how they offer a vision where rural women are not just beneficiaries but active contributors to their communities. AVP Puri stressed IFAD’s commitment to the guidelines and to continue collaborating with FAO and WFP through joint programmes and initiatives, championing the rights and roles of women.

c. In the session dedicated to Leveraging the Use of Data for Driving Food Security and Nutrition Policy: Endorsement and Uptake of the Policy Recommendations on Strengthening FSN Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition, IFAD highlighted how these policy recommendations come at a critical moment when global food security is in a precarious condition, and how high-quality data and sound methodologies of data analysis can support decision making processes. IFAD brought forward also its experience in investing around data use for policy and as part of the 50x2030 Initiative - a joint initiative together with FAO and the World Bank, which aims to strengthen country capacity to produce and use agricultural and food security data in 50 L/LMICs by 2030.

e. In the session on Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition, IFAD highlighted examples of how it invests in rural people through targeted interventions, such as: access to finance (microcredit, microinsurance, remittances, mobile banking, etc); risk management tools; support farmers organizations into cooperatives; providing financial instruments and de-risking tools to agri-SMEs and financial institutions working with farmers and producers (PSFP). The case of Babban Gona in Nigeria was also highlighted as an example of IFAD’s provision of financial support to fund the expansion of the franchising model, which encouraged other investors to engage with the company.

f. Additionally, IFAD had the opportunity to showcase its work in several areas, such as led/co-led and participated in 7 side events, which took place throughout the week. Several IFAD divisions and staff organized and took part as speakers to such events, showcasing the Fund’s work in different areas as contributing to food security and nutrition

(iv) Provision of financial support to the CFS Secretariat, HLPE and CSIPM. For the first time since the first IFAD contribution to the CFS, the Fund has managed to provide grant cash funding for two years (2023-2024) for a total of USD 1 000 000, rather than a yearly cash contribution of USD 500 000. In addition, since February 2024, IFAD has loaned one P5 level staff to the CFS Secretariat, which adds on to the yearly cash contribution previously mentioned. Additionally, for the period 2023-2026, IFAD will be
channelling EUR 3 000 000 from the European Union through the European Commission, specifically in support of the CFS Secretariat, the CSIPM and the HLPE. The collaboration between the three parts of the CFS and IFAD was instrumental to be able to finalize the various agreements put in place to allow the disbursement of the funds.

2. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

2. CFS’ voluntary principles and guidelines are informed by IFAD’s own work and underpin IFAD’s efforts towards food systems transformation. IFAD is committed to supporting Member States in utilizing CFS products when relevant and applicable to translate these principles and guidelines into concrete progress for smallholder farmers and the rural poor.

3. IFAD continues to update the CFS database, launched in October 2020, to further facilitate the utilization and dissemination of CFS products and recommendations within IFAD. The aim of the database was to assist in expanding the use and application of CFS products, particularly in IFAD’s policy dialogue with borrowing country governments.

4. The unit responsible for coordinating IFAD’s engagement in the CFS also held regular meetings with key technical staff to update them on the CFS workplan, the CFS plenary planning and key engagements where technical expertise was needed, as well as to sensitize staff around CFS products and their use on the ground.

5. IFAD has referenced CFS products such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs) in how-to-do land tenure toolkits (for youth and gender) and in IFAD’s Rural Youth Action Plan 2021–2028. IFAD has also used CFS products in the IFAD/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) online peer-to-peer training programme called GeoTech4Tenure. This programme aims to enhance the capacity of IFAD and FAO country and project teams and their partners to secure tenure rights as a key factor for rural transformation and social inclusion in a manner that is consistent with the principles of the VGGTs.

3. Voluntary commitments for 2024

6. IFAD continues to be committed to support the CFS and encourage the use and uptake of its policy products, as a key instrument that can support Governments and other stakeholders in developing policies adapted to the local level. While IFAD recognizes the CFS platform as a representative platform to collectively discuss critical policy principles and ways to combat the global food security crisis, the Fund also acknowledges that there is still potential to improve both the visibility and utility of the CFS platform. To this end, IFAD will continue to support the CFS by actively contributing to the B/AG, provide technical support and expertise in the formulation and implementation of the MYPoW and various thematic workstreams, support the organization of the annual CFS plenary and encourage the Committee to engage in ongoing multilateral mechanisms and relevant global initiatives to promote CFS knowledge-sharing at all levels.
7. Additionally, IFAD is organizing a series of Global Engagement internal events, to sensitize IFAD staff about Global Engagement activities as a tool to increase the Fund’s visibility, partnerships and resource mobilization efforts. It is envisioned that one of the sessions in 2024 will be dedicated to IFAD’s engagement in the CFS, ahead of or right after the CFS52 Plenary. This will be an opportunity for IFAD staff to be reminded of the importance of the CFS, increase the utilization of CFS policy products and recommendations, and increase IFAD’s staff engagement in the Committee.

8. With regards to the CFS52 Plenary session, IFAD is already planning increased participation of its Senior Management and technical staff in key sessions to be held during the upcoming 52nd plenary, in addition to the President’s participation in the opening session.

4. Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies

9. IFAD commits to strengthening its partnership and engagement with CFS and its partners to move together to achieve the shared goal of delivering on the Decade of Action and achieving the SDGs by 2030. This reflects IFAD Management’s unwavering commitment to CFS’ principles and respect for the achievements of this consensus-building institution, as it strives for better world food security.

10. To increase engagement of stakeholders and actors on the ground, and consequently increase the uptake of CFS products at the country, national and regional levels, it is suggested to map such actors and stakeholders and ensure their participation and active engagement in the CFS meetings and plenaries.

5. Success stories

11. CFS’ voluntary principles and guidelines are informed by IFAD’s own work and underpin IFAD’s own efforts towards food systems transformation. IFAD is committed to supporting the Member States in utilizing CFS products when relevant and applicable to translate these principles and guidelines into concrete progress for the smallholder farmers and rural poor.

12. IFAD has referenced CFS products such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs) in how-to-do land tenure toolkits (for youth and gender) and in IFAD’s Rural Youth Action Plan 2021–2028. IFAD has also used CFS products in the IFAD/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) online peer-to-peer training programme called GeoTech4Tenure. This programme aims to enhance the capacity of IFAD and FAO country and project teams and their partners to secure tenure rights as a key factor for rural transformation and social inclusion in a manner that is consistent with the principles of the VGGTs.

UN Nutrition

1. Contribution to CFS activities
In 2023, UN-Nutrition contributed to various CFS activities, helping to bring and strengthen the nutrition lens in the Committee’s work. During the reporting period, UN-Nutrition particularly supported CFS-affiliated events and inputs to the CFS Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for the 2024–2027 period. First, the CFS and UN-Nutrition Secretariats co-organized a high-level panel session at the 15th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin, Germany. The session entitled Coherent policies, efficient actions: How to address the global food crisis was held on 20 January 2023, targeting ministers of agriculture and other high-level participants. It engaged prominent speakers such as the Chilean Minister of Agriculture, the United Arab Emirates Minister of Climate Change and Environment, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Côte d’Ivoire, the Director of Environment, Climate Change and Health at the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as the CFS Chair, who delivered the keynote address, and the UN-Nutrition Executive Secretary, who opened and moderated the session. The speakers underscored the importance of policy coherence and coordinated actions to advance the food systems transformation agenda in the wake of the global food crisis. Inclusive governance was a cornerstone of the discussion with panelists highlighting its centrality in promoting synergistic action among relevant actors in the food system. It also highlighted the nutritional risks of the global food crisis and related impacts on broader development. Furthermore, the event provided an opportunity to raise awareness about the role of the CFS, as a multi-stakeholder governance platform, and UN-Nutrition, as an inter-agency coordination mechanism, in building bridges across sectors and promoting collaboration so that food systems deliver healthy diets for all within planetary boundaries.

UN-Nutrition also supported the organization and promotion of official side events during the 51st session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS51), liaising with its membership for inputs and key messages. On 25 October 2023, it organized side event 18 Our seat at the table – Maximizing transformative opportunities across the rural-urban continuum to deliver healthy diets from sustainable food systems in collaboration with other partners, including FAO, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and stakeholders united under the Urban Food Systems and Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All Coalitions. This hybrid event showcased inclusive, people-centered, local and territorial food systems approaches and tools being pursued in Mozambique and Morocco, which simultaneously tackle malnutrition, protect the environment, strengthen resilience and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It also aimed to advocate for action by local and regional governments in food systems transformation. Moreover, the side event highlighted CFS’s vital role in elevating cities, including the upcoming report of its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation. This is in line with the current CFS MYPoW’s focus on local food systems and territorial governance. The UN-Nutrition Executive Secretary was among the speakers, positioning healthy diets as the critical link between food systems, health and nutrition. She also underscored the importance of good governance at multiple levels and integrated action across the urban-rural continuum such as through home-grown school meals to support shared goals.

Furthermore, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat supported events on the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), held at the margins of CFS51. This included a session on Integrating Climate and Nutrition – an essential action for zero hunger (side event 13) and the official I-CAN reception, both held
on 25 October 2023. With in-person segments conducted in Rome and others joining online, these events gave visibility to I-CAN as its 1-year anniversary approached. They also highlighted the crucial links between nutrition and climate change, including how developing joint responses can accelerate action on both issues. Side event 13 provided a forum to launch two publications: FAO's *Climate action and nutrition pathways to impact* and the I-CAN baseline assessment. It also profiled projects from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program that are implementing integrated climate and nutrition responses, while promoting the need for coherent action across agrifood, water, social protection and health systems. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat publicized these I-CAN events through UN-Nutrition communication channels (website, social media, newsletter), helping to build further momentum for I-CAN in support of win-wins and to bridge the divide between the climate and nutrition communities.

In addition, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat liaised with the 16 UN-Nutrition Member Agencies, collating inputs for the CFS MYPoW, 2024–2027, which was adopted at the CFS plenary in October 2023. The UN-Nutrition Executive Secretary also regularly participated in the CFS Advisory Group meetings, and subsequently updated UN-Nutrition members on related developments, as needed.

2. **Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes**

The UN-Nutrition Secretariat was one of the co-organizers of policy clinics that were conducted for UN country teams (UNCTs), including UN Resident Coordinator Offices, on transforming food systems towards delivering healthy and sustainable diets for all through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) cycle. The aim was to foster discussions among the UNCTs on the alignment of their respective UN cooperation frameworks with national nutrition plans and food systems pathways, identifying opportunities for improvement and for applying recommendations from the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)*. This was a key moment for awareness raising about the need for nutrition-smart food systems transformation and how nutrition is both a maker and marker of sustainable development among high-ranking UN officials at country level (e.g. UN Resident Coordinators). The clinics were held virtually and targeted ten countries (Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mali, Somalia and Yemen), where the National Food Systems Convenor dually serves as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement country coordinator.

All the above-mentioned UN-Nutrition supported events provided an opportunity to raise awareness about CFS products, including the VGFSyN and reports, as well as the *Voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security*. This, in turn, helps to support policy actions and programming to deliver healthy diets and positively impact the three dimensions of sustainable development. UN-Nutrition communication channels (website, Twitter/X account and newsletters) were leveraged to profile CFS resources, and more broadly, to raise awareness about CFS among UN-Nutrition members and subscribers to UN-Nutrition newsletters. UN-Nutrition subscribers have a broad reach, going beyond the RBAs and the World Health Organization, which are likewise part of the CFS Advisory Group, and UN colleagues. The UN-Nutrition Knowledge Hub, launched in October 2023, features the VGFSyN and HLPE publications such as *Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition* and *Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems*. Online consultations in relation to forthcoming CFS products were also publicized through the UN-Nutrition
Twitter/X account, including the zero draft of HLPE report no. 19 on *Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation*. Furthermore, UN-Nutrition published a guidance note on nutrition for UNCTs, their government counterparts and other stakeholders in 2023, supporting the integration of nutrition in the UNSDCF, which refers to the VGFSyN as a complementary resource for countries to draw upon.

3. **Voluntary commitments for 2024**

UN-Nutrition will continue to promote CFS resources, including related e-consultations, among its Member Agencies and subscribers. To this end, it will continue to leverage its communications channels and other suitable opportunities to encourage the uptake of these CFS products, such as through regional webinar series. The latter seeks to strengthen outreach to UN colleagues working at the country and regional levels and feedback loops across the country-global continuum. In addition, UN-Nutrition’s active involvement in the Secretariats of the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS) and I-CAN help to ensure alignment with and uptake of CFS products and outcomes. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat will also explore the extent to which nutrition resources developed by the UN-Nutrition Member Agencies are aligned to the VGFSyN. The findings of this analysis will be shared with its members and the CFS Secretariat along with suggested recommendations for follow-up action.

4. **Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies**

Governments have the primary responsibility to strengthen the linkages between CFS and actors on the ground as well as ensure CFS products are well received and used at country level. UN Resident Coordinators and UNCTs are important actors to ensure policy coherence and coordination at country level. UN-Nutrition is available to support the CFS in strengthening linkages with UN country offices in order to increase knowledge about the work of the CFS at country level. UN-Nutrition’s efforts to strengthen feedback loops between UN nutrition activity at country, regional and global levels through its various knowledge management activities and communication channels can help further strengthen linkages between the CFS and the Advisory Group constituencies.

5. **Success stories**

**World Health Organization (WHO)**

1. **Contribution to CFS activities**

WHO is a member of the Bureau and Advisory Group advocating for nutrition and health considerations in the work of the CFS. As co-lead of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016 – 2025), WHO promotes nutrition through the six action areas of the Nutrition Decade: 1) Sustainable resilient food systems for healthy diets; 2) 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 governance and accountability for nutrition. In the CFS reporting for 2022, WHO listed the following voluntary commitments for 2023:

- WHO will engage in the Open-Ended Working Group on data on food security and nutrition.
- WHO will support the preparation of the CFS51 Annual Session (particularly on the ICN2/Nutrition Decade progress reporting).
- WHO will engage in the development of the new CFS Work programme (MYPoW).
- WHO will continue to promote the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

In 2023, WHO has developed, jointly with FAO, the Progress Report on Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. This report was jointly presented by WHO and FAO on the fourth day of the CFS51 annual session. WHO made statements during session IV, V, VI and VII. In addition, WHO was co-organizer of three CFSS1 side-events. WHO participated in Advisory Group meetings and provided input to the MYPoW2024-2027. WHO actively engaged in the Technical Task Team on the CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition.

2. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

WHO continues to communicate mainly on the CFS VGFSyN both internally and to WHO constituencies. These guidelines are an important tool to advocate for food systems transformation that delivers healthy and sustainable diets. WHO continues to promote its uptake among the Member States, alongside its own policy packages, tools and frameworks. The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are promoted on WHO's website.

WHO also refers to the agreed language of the CFS VGFSyN when proposing language for background documents and draft resolutions. For example, WHO highlighted the CFS VGFSyN as reference document in its response to a request from the UN Sustainable Development Group regarding the potential to optimizing support to countries to effect the key transitions for SDG acceleration, in preparation for the 3 May 2023 UNSDG Principals meeting.

3. Voluntary commitments for 2024

WHO will support the preparation of and participate in the CFSS2 Annual Session.

WHO will continue to promote the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

WHO will strive to implement the policy recommendations on strengthening collection and use of food security and nutrition (FSN) data and related analysis tools to improve decision-making in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security such as: capacity development and training of targeted stakeholders in FSN data use, fostering FSN data collection at country level and providing guidance to countries; and the promotion of harmonization, coherence, and interoperability of FSN data; consideration of the need to address FSN statistics as a potential domain within the UN Statistical Commission.
4. Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies

WHO reiterates the need for increased collaboration and potential joint convening of technical dialogues between the Geneva and Rome permanent missions under the umbrella of and facilitated by CFS. This could be done in preparation of the end of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016 – 2025) and/or its possible extension. WHO also encourages CFS leadership to participate in the UN Food Systems Task Force meetings.

5. Success stories

UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

1. Contribution to CFS activities

The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, took part in the AG Bureau meetings and where possible, in the substantive segments on the global food crisis. He ensured the flow of information on the right to food among the different UN agencies as the Human Right Council in Geneva, the UN agencies in Rome and the UNGA in New York.

He contributed to the work of prioritization on the MYPOW in particular promoting a “Coordinated Global Policy Response to the food crisis” and the Right to Food Guidelines (20th Anniversary). He prepared his report on small scale fisheries and reminded the anniversary of the FAO Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines as well as the importance to build on these tools when dealing with all the CFS issues.

The SR contributed with written and oral inputs to the MYPOW workstream and to the Data for FSN workstream, actively participating in the negotiations of the recommendations, bringing in a human rights perspective.

The SR co organized and participated to side events at CFS51, particularly on the issue of data, human rights-based approaches to global challenges and climate action for the right to adequate food for all and was a speaker in the Special event on the Right to Food

He contributed to the HLPE on Reducing Inequalities.

2. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

The Special Rapporteur referred to the CFS guidelines, principles and recommendations in his Reports, speeches, presentations and advocacy activities. Particularly referenced in his work are the following instruments: Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the national food security (2004), Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (CFS 38, 2012), CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA, CFS 42,
2015) Connecting Smallholders to Markets (CFS 43, 2016), and a number of HLPE Reports as a source of knowledge and science policy interface.

The Special Rapporteur advocated for the use of the Guidelines and recommendations as an example of a participative process to guide the right to food action plans at country levels.

3. Voluntary commitments for 2024

The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food will be available to intervene in the CFS plenary on the policy coordinated response segment. He will be ready to contribute to the 20th anniversary of the VGs on the Right to Food.

4. Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies

The linkages between the CFS and the FAO Regional Conferences, as well as IFAD regional meetings or the Farmers Forum, could be strengthened.

The MYPOW workstream/biannual meetings on “Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation” could also promote further avenues to improve outreach and knowledge of the CFS work at country level.

The AG members should be invited to regularly report on their efforts in promoting the CFS products at national, regional, and global level.

The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food could contribute to strengthen these linkages in his field and country visits, where relevant, promoting seminars and multi actor working meetings at this scope.

5. Success stories

The Special Rapporteur is developing some tools based on the Right to Food Guidelines to be disseminated and used for the Food System National Pathways.

Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

1. Contribution to CFS activities

CGIAR consistently participates in Bureau/Advisory Group meetings, providing perspectives and technical inputs on organizational issues and workstream activities. Beyond Advisory Group meetings, CGIAR staff and researchers participate actively in OEWGs, HLPE, and annual sessions of CFS.

CGIAR’s provided comments on the MYPoW 2024-27, aiming at informing objectives, proposed activities, and expected outcomes, in line with CGIAR’s 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy.

Specifically in 2023:
- CGIAR participated in two Open-Ended Working Groups / Technical Task Teams.
  - **Empowering women and girls and promoting gender equality.** The CGIAR Gender Platform Director, Nicoline de Haan, actively participated in the formulation of the *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender and Women Empowerment*, adopted at CFS51, through the Open-Ended Working Group.
  - **Leveraging the use of data for driving food security and nutrition policy.** The CGIAR Head of Digital and Data Innovation Accelerator, Brian King, actively supported the development of *Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition*.

- Membership in HLPE
  - Dr. Shakuntala Thilsted, Global Lead for Nutrition and Public Health, WorldFish, and Dr. Iain Wright, Deputy Director General-Research and Development, ILRI, were members of the HLPE in 2023. Dr. Wright assumed the position of Vice Chair of HLPE later in the year.

In CFS51, CGIAR co-organized the following side events:

- Forging Resilience – Harnessing evidence-based agrifood transformation for navigating multiple crises: insights from South Asia and the Horn of Africa (CGIAR)
- Innovations for climate-friendly food systems – A deep dive into digitalization and agroecology for resilience (CGIAR)
- Growing Sustainability – Bridging Food, Biodiversity and Climate Goals for a 1.5°C Future (CGIAR)
- Global Dialogue on Water Tenure for Water & Food Security, Social Inclusion, and Climate Resilience (IWMI)
- Nourishing Progress – Reflecting on a Decade of Social Protection Innovations and Thinking for Zero Hunger (IFPRI)

CGIAR also provided supporting statements in plenary to the MYPoW 2024-2027, the Voluntary Guidelines for Gender, and Policy Recommendations for Data.

2. **Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes**

CGIAR staff and researchers use and promote CFS outputs in many ways – in their daily work (general examples cited for food systems and nutrition, agroecology, and youth), sharing with partners and stakeholders, and highlighting them in discussions and presentations in various fora.

Some specific examples where CFS outputs have help to influence thinking, conceptualization, or language around key topics or where they have contributed to expanding the knowledge base include:

- An op-ed was written in Devex (2022) to support the need for the *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender*, and the Guidelines were cited in the *2022 Global Food 50/50 Report*, which was then
launched at a seminar at IFPRI.

- IITA’s Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) program serves as a direct liaison between IITA and the private sector and has generated over 440,000 direct jobs since its establishment a decade ago. IYA serves as a practical example of many of the principles and recommended actions in the HLPE Report 16. Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems. This includes providing youth with opportunities to produce more nutritious foods, such as biofortified crops, including maize, cassava, and orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP); generating employment and income to afford more nutritious foods; positioning youth as agents of change; and developing sustainable finance models and market systems to access funding for investment.

- The CFS document on Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems was used as a reference to finetune the priority activities of the CGIAR agroecology initiatives, especially in relation to the role of research in agroecology (https://www.cgiar.org/initiative/agroecology/; https://www.cgiar.org/initiative/nature-positive-solutions/). This reaffirmed the need to build more scientific evidence about agroecology, what works where, and for whom. The CGIAR initiative on agroecology has now begun piloting a more holistic assessment framework designed for this purpose in eight countries. The meetings to produce this document were also very useful to understanding country priorities and views on this topic.

3. **Voluntary commitments for 2024**

As expressed in statements at CFS51, CGIAR commits to support CFS, its mission, and activities in many ways. CGIAR strongly supports the core objectives of CFS of promoting food and nutrition security, resilience, and sustainability through a multi-sectoral, inclusive, and participatory approach. CGIAR especially supports the MYPoW’s emphasis on evidence-based decision-making and strengthening policy coherence and collaborative action from global to local levels, working with partners and across constituent centers.

In alignment with its global research strategy, CGIAR is particular interested in the workstreams on climate, biodiversity, and land quality; building resilient food systems; encouraging sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; promoting food and knowledge systems of indigenous peoples; and strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems, particularly their connection with agriculture and rural areas. CGIAR will strive to bring the voices of our partner communities, our joint experiences, and science to promote evidence-based debates on these topics.

With specific regard to gender, CGIAR is committed to supporting the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender and will continue to research and understand gender as an integral part of agri-food systems innovation; continue to build capacity both of staff and partners to effectively
implement gender-sensitive approaches and promote knowledge sharing and best practices; and continue to collaborate with governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to foster an enabling environment for gender equality in agriculture.

With specific regard to data, CGIAR is committed to actively supporting the implementation of the *Policy Recommendations on Data* by providing technical expertise in data collection, analysis, and interpretation through our network of centers and partners; working with national stakeholders to develop and promote innovative data collection and analysis tools; identifying best practices and providing evidence-based recommendations to improve data collection and analysis at national and regional levels for food and nutrition security; and collaborating with national governments and organizations to strengthen their capacity for data collection, management, and analysis. CGIAR will also promote attention to data interoperability, data agency, and testing and learning about operations.

4. **Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies**

Among other recommendations, we would particularly suggest:

- Map existing national and regional multistakeholder platforms and science-policy interfaces to CFS’s areas of action and especially to the MYPoW in order to strengthen collaboration across sectors, particularly with research.

- Provide regular evaluation reports of the status of adoption of CFS policy guidance into use at global and country level. Such reports should also give examples of successes and failures and identify what factors promote and inhibit the access, uptake, and use of CFS products by different constituencies and what can be done to overcome challenges (lessons learned).

5. **Success stories**

**Civil Society and Indigenous People’s Mechanism (CSIPM)**

1. **Contribution to CFS activities**

In 2023 the CSIPM participated to 8 Advisory Group and Bureau meetings on: 24 January, 24 March, 14 April, 20 April, 23 May, 19 June, 27 July and 11 September

The CSIPM Advisory Group is the direct link with the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group. Since 2021 the Advisory Group is integrated by 16 members from a diversity of constituencies and regions, who attended the CFS AG/B meetings on a rotational way. For each meeting, the CSIPM facilitated the participation of two to four Advisory Group members.
Prior to each meeting the CSIPM Advisory Group members had one to three preparatory calls to facilitate better participation and the connection of the priorities to the different themes of the meeting.

Comparing the outcomes of the Bureau meetings with the CSIPM positions and proposals presented to the joint AG/Bureau meetings, the general assessment is that many of the concerns and suggestions made by the CSIPM during the reporting period received support from Bureau members. A few examples include:

- A section for coordinated policy responses was included in the CFS 51 plenary agenda as suggested by the CSIPM
- The voices of the CSIPM constituencies were included in the ministerial declaration
- Enough time was dedicated to the gender process during plenary

Two matters that were not taken into consideration and that still represent a great concern for participants in the CSIPM include the date of the CFS Plenary, which has now been moved to the week prior the World Food Forum; and the increasing interlinkage with the UN Food System Summit stocktaking moment in July 2023.

The Multi-Year Program of Work 2024-2027

In 2023 at least three Advisory Group and Bureau were dedicated to the process of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027. The CSIPM actively participated in these meetings, specifically on 20 April and 19 June with comments delivered on the 26 of June. The participation in the MYPoW process was carried forward by the CSIPM Advisory Group members and the Global Food Governance working group.

The process of discussion of the CSIPM priorities for the MYPoW started already in the CC meeting of February 2022, continued in the in person CC meeting in October 2022 and were further prioritized at the beginning of 2023 and consolidated in thematic proposals that were presented throughout the MYPoW process.

In a second phase of the MYPoW, the CFS Chair merged the proposals received with the help of the Advisory Group and Bureau members. The CSIPM engaged very actively in proposing mergers and compromised some aspects of its initial proposals in order to find a middle ground.

The formulation of the MYPoW was complicated by several factors. Time ran out at the end and the document was fragmentary. Unfortunately Advisory Group members were not able to see or comment on the final edits of the MYPoW. In addition, despite the active work by the CSIPM and multiple interactions with Members, it was difficult to involve regions and constituencies due to the complicated and abstract nature of the MYPoW and its development.

A priority for the CSIPM in the negotiations of the MYPoW was the coordination function of the CFS to respond to and prevent crises. The CSIPM stressed the need to have a space of coordination to address the structural drivers of the food crisis such as the influence of the debt crisis, dependency on food
imports and dependency on chemical inputs which are exacerbating inequalities in a context of climate change.

The CSIPM contributions influenced strongly the MYPoW outcomes:

- One of the main functions of the CFS, the platform function was reactivated
- The Right to Adequate Food was considered as an overarching topic of the MYPoW (Bureau decisions 27/28 July and final text of the MYPoW)
- The Coordinating Policy Responses to Emerging Global Food Crises Workstream was supported, with several Members encouraging the merging of this Workstream with the workstream on Collaborative Governance.

Participation and Contributions to the CFS intersessional and plenary activities

The CSIPM also contributed significantly to the different intersessional activities and during the CFS 51 Plenary. For example:

- Through internal consultations within constituencies and the subregions participating through the working groups for the identification and prioritisation of key issues. Particularly for the Data and Gender Workstreams.
- The participation of the CSIPM as part of the Technical Task Team drafting the CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition Data.
- Active engagement and participation in the Friends of the Chair meetings of the Gender Workstream, as well as in the extraordinary sessions for the conclusion of the process.
- Facilitating the space for exchange among CSIPM constituencies and Member States representatives regarding the key issues and challenges for most affected people by food insecurity and malnutrition.

During the CFS 51 Plenary, side events were co-organised with some Member States, and the CSIPM facilitated the dialogue on issues crucial to the CFS discussions. As well as an exchange with the newly appointed CFS Chair, and other CFS participants, such as FAO and the OHCHR.

2. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

The CSIPM is involved in the use, application and dissemination of the CFS outcomes in a number of ways, among them:

- By organising internal consultations to develop the monitoring report on the CFS policy recommendations on Food Price Volatility and on Social Protection at CFS 51, as well as the presentation of the outcomes during the the monitoring segment in the CFS 51 Plenary Session.
- Additionally, the CSIPM developed two in-depth evaluations of the policy outcomes of the CFS Data and Gender Workstreams to identify both, short-comings and strengths, which could allow
participants leverage the relevance and utilisation of the policy outcomes at the local, national and regional levels. These evaluations are the result of an in-depth reflection within the CSIPM constituencies. In the reporting period, this exercise was particularly held by participants of the CSIPM Data and Women and Gender Diversities Working Groups.

◦ Statement by the CSIPM Women and Gender Diversities Working Group regarding the CSW67 Review theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls, agreed conclusions in 2018, during CSW62, which draw light to the GEWGE process that was taking place at the CFS.

◦ The interplatform dialogue organised between the CSO Panel to the UNCCD Drynet and the CSIPM. A space for exchange on key CFS policy outcomes that are relevant to land degradation, desertification, and climate change. This was an important moment for dissemination of the CFS policy outcomes such as the VGGTs, the CFS GEWGE guidelines and the Youth Policy Recommendations.

◦ The CSIPM Coordination Committee members also have reported outreach activities regarding the CFS processes and policy outcomes within their networks and regions through assemblies and meetings.

3. Voluntary commitments for 2024

4. Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies

The following suggestions have been identified by the CSIPM constituencies as concrete actions that could increase the participation and knowledge of the CFS:

• Ensuring interpretation during the CFS meetings, e.g. during the OEWG, and AG/B meetings.

• Give enough time to the different policy processes, to ensure more inclusive and effective participation form the different constituencies, which can result into a wider engagement and uptake of the CFS Policy Recommendations.

• Support the creation of popular materiales of the CFS policy outcomes with the active participation of the Civil Society organisations and Indigenous Peoples.

5. Success stories

   Private Sector Mechanism (PSM)

1. Contribution to CFS activities
Throughout the year, PSM is active in the various CFS workstreams contributing regularly in meetings, written submissions, and raising of $564,000 USD to support the coordination and participation of the private sector at CFS.

a. Participation in CFS Plenary Sessions

• PSM coordinated a delegation of 127 people from 30 countries. The delegation included a diverse gender, geographical and age representation and marked a strong return to CFS, with numbers that confirm private sector’s commitment to the work of CFS.

• During the week-long plenary, PSM members were able to make 13 interventions, pose questions, and provide key insights and best practices from the private sector on the topic being discussed. PSM members also took part in all side events throughout the week.

• At CFS51 the PSM members organized 4 side events this year reaching over 470 attendees in person and virtually. Members of the delegation also had an opportunity to speak in additional side events and a special event session in plenary. These were the side events directly organized and sponsored, or co-sponsored by PSM:

  o Empowering women farmers to effectively reduce poverty and hunger (24 October) which included a panel discussion built on the work of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines for Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition. It explored how these guidelines can contribute to helping women overcome the challenges they face in agriculture and food systems.

  o Improved data management for increased sustainability, food security and nutrition (24 October) which shared the concerns and potential of data management policies from a farmer’s perspective to promote data-driven decision-making. Greater collaboration is needed among the multiple actors involved in this space: data producers, users and enablers.

  o Investing in Youth to Reduce Inequalities – Implementing CFS Guidelines on Engaging Youth in Agriculture and Food Systems (26 October), which showcased existing programs that focus on education, capacity development and academic opportunities for youth engaged in agriculture and food systems that require additional investments to be scaled to a global level.

  o The inextricable link between diet quality, food accessibility, & global inequality (26 October) which discussed a critical issue of how inequalities in food systems are intricately tied to food accessibility and availability. Moreover, it focused on how access to healthier, nutritionally adequate diets plays a pivotal role in reducing inequalities across populations; leads to improved health, better education, and increased employment opportunities for all.

• High-level Dinner: for the 12 th year in a row, the private sector held this successful event on the margin’s of the CFS which focused on the topic of Resilient and Inclusive Food Systems and brought together over 160 guests, including H.E Gabriel Ferrero, Chairperson of the CFS 2021-2023 and secretariat, the Independent Chair of FAO Council, incoming CFS Chair, H.E Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jeziile, FAO and IFAD senior management, Member States, UN agencies, NGOs, and companies. Guests were invited to examine the ways and tools to emphasise inclusion across the agrifood value chains and
effectively support food system transformation. The discussion also prepared stakeholders for the upcoming discussion at the CFS on “Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition.” Furthermore, the discussions also explored programs and initiatives of the private sector, member states, multilateral agencies, NGOs and academia.

b. Bureau and Advisory Group Meetings:
- Participated in bimonthly (6) Advisory Group meetings.

c. PSM Coordination:
- 4 PSM Quarterly Meetings in addition to an Annual General Meeting.
- 10 newsletters distributed to members throughout the year.
- 4 newsletters distributed to Member States throughout the year, including a special video message newsletter.
- PSM Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held 7 July 2023, where members discussed workstream activities and re-elected IAFN to be focal point for PSM for a two-year term. 56 PSM representatives joined the AGM with 35 of those being inperson in Rome.

d. PSM’s CFS Workstream Engagement

1. Gender
- PSM remained actively engaged in the gender negotiations and PSM constructively supported the workstream by providing concrete examples of women’s empowerment received and delivered by PSM members.

2. Data
- The Data Collection & Analysis workstream led to the successful endorsement of balanced recommendations at the 51st Session of the CFS. The PSM engaged throughout

3. Reducing Inequalities
- Following the online consultation and launch of the HLPE report on Reducing Inequalities, PSM members formed a PSM Macro-Committee dedicated to Reducing Inequalities to coordinate and consolidate its input into the workstream.

e. HLPE

PSM members attended the launch at the CFS51 of the High-Level Panel of Experts Report: Reducing Inequalities for food security and nutrition on 15 June 2023 and shared findings throughout its network.

2. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes
CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to improve decision-making in support of the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security:

• PSM members have recognised the need for improved data management for increased sustainability, food security and nutrition and PSM led a side event at CFS 51 that featured a data policy guidance report by a PSM member and recommendations, linked to SDG attainment. “Data policy guidance on farm data: strengthening collection, analysis, & use of ag. & food systems data”. https://www.solutionsfromtheland.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023.10.10-SfLData_Policy_Guide_2023-Final1.pdf

• The importance of data ownership, use, and the need for privacy guiding principles is recognised and that data generated on a farm by the farmer or a third party acting on behalf of the farmer, will continue to be owned by the farmer. Personal information and agriculture data should not be without the agreement of farmers. The flow of data and data sharing is a key element to achieving farm value, environmental sustainability, social inclusivity, and development in agriculture.

CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition

• A PSM member created a Task Force within its work plan to work around SDG 2, 3 and 5 that centres on how the dairy sector is helping gender equality and can improve the empowerment of women throughout the value chain. Similarly, working in the cocoa value chain, PSM members have developed gender sensitization action plans focusing on building cooperative leadership and developing appropriate e-extension tools.

• PSM members have used FAO’s Asia Pacific Regional Conference to amplify the business case for women’s economic empowerment, to incentivize investment into gender mainstreaming actions, practices, and policies (leadership, trade, logistics).

• A challenge encountered after the endorsement of Gender guidelines has been the lack of interest of Member States/stakeholders to identify activities to collaborate post-CFS endorsement to promote the guidelines in-country or globally.

3. Voluntary commitments for 2024

The PSM has funding remains voluntary and is reduced in the 2024 workplan, reflecting the challenging times in the sector. The work consists of: core secretariat services; engagement with CFS outreach activities, and core CFS workstreams under the following organizing elements:

• PSM Macro Committee on Reducing Inequalities in Food Systems

• PSM Macro Committee on Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems

• PSM Macro Committee on Nutrition
A training will be held on the gender guidelines during 2024 to help increase the adoption of CFS products.

4. **Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies**

PSM suggestions to enhance interaction and increase knowledge of CFS work at country and global level include:

- PSM encourages more opportunities both for constituency engagement and CFS events through the biannual FAO Regional Conferences.

- Side Events are widely acknowledged as good examples of CFS membership interaction. As collective Zoom proficiency increases there is scope to develop further types of side event activities. These could be, with CFS member leadership, at regional/sub-regional level and encourage panellists and topics that reflect context specific issues. This would both allow all CFS members, mechanisms and participants to share local knowledge, ideas and the opportunities for CFS product application, as well as discuss the constraints.

- PSM involvement in CFS Special Events in collaboration with other Fora such as HLPF, the Global Crisis Response Group, GFFA and FSS and others continue to provide valuable opportunities to highlight the importance of CFS outputs outside of the CFS environment.

5. **Success stories**

Please see [www.agrifood.net](http://www.agrifood.net) for case studies and position papers on food and nutrition security.

**Philanthropic Foundation Mechanism (PFM)**

1. **Contribution to CFS activities**

During the year 2023 the PFM has focused on i) participation in the Bureau & Advisory Group, ii) contributions to the CFS’ working program (particularly the discussions related to the new MYPoW, and the HLPE report on inequalities) and contributions to two CFS policy negotiation processes (data and gender streams), iii) active participation at the CFS51 Plenary and reconvening and iv) exploration on how to strengthen the connection between the Philanthropic foundations’ networks with the work of the CFS, both in terms of bringing inputs from the wider philanthropic community, and of disseminating and discussing CFS products and processes within these networks.
2. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

The AEF and the GA have been continued to use the CFS policy recommendations on agroecology and other innovative approaches to support the work of the Agroecology Coalition (Coalition for the Transformation of Food System Through Agroecology). In October 2023 in Rome, at the margins of the CFS, and in partnership with many organizations, the AEF and GA organized a meeting of 70 donors and investors to discuss how to boost food system transformation through investing in agroecology, strongly influenced by the 13 principles of the HLPE, approved by the CFS at its policy recommendations.
Within the GA network, philanthropies have also been constantly debating how to adopt comprehensive food system approaches in granting and investments, using issues and themes addressed at both the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

CFS products and news on CFS activities were disseminated through BMGF partners such as 50x2030, Alliance to End Hunger, Ceres2030, SDG2 Advocacy Hub; furthermore, CFS events and outcome documents are always an occasion for donor conversations, such as the SDG2 Roadmap Working Group of Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD, hosted by IFAD).

3. Voluntary commitments for 2024

PFM is consulting its network on how to contribute to the Inequalities and Urban and Peri-Urban Food System debates (possibly through open consultations with our network before and during the policy convergence processes and/or through a series of webinars to amplify the work of the HLPE-FSN). Furthermore, we intend to explore how to position ongoing discussions by the philanthropic community on investing in food system transformation with the initiative of the CFS in strengthening coordinated policy responses to the global food crisis and how to increase the dissemination of CFS policy outcomes across our networks (global interlinkages dialogues and uptake function). By fostering collaboration and capacity-building initiatives, philanthropic entities can contribute to maximizing the usefulness and impact of CFS policy agreements, advancing collective efforts towards food security and nutrition worldwide.

4. Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies

As expressed previously, the PFM believe that new MYPoW opens the possibility of organizing less formal inter-sessional events, such as informal meetings, webinars, discussion sessions, in support of using its policy products or in support of the current CFS working program. Possibly, these informal events can be regionally specific, potentially raising the interest and facilitating more active participation of national-level actors, including philanthropies.

Additionally, the CFS Chair could continue to explore how to more strongly link CFS policy and outcomes with other global fora addressing food security and food systems, particularly the UN Rio Conventions. As there is intense activity on how to implement these agreements at the national-level, we expect actors would welcome support on how CFS policy products could support these, e.g., the implementation and update of Nationally Determined Contributions, the update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Land-Degradation Neutrality Targets, etc. As some members of PFM have underlined in past reporting exercises, an important structural challenge for the achievement of food and nutrition security is adequate access to resources and the lack of coordination amongst regional and global actors supporting their delivery. The CFS could consider additional emphasis on this investment gap in its future work.

5. Success stories