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**Implementation of and follow-up to major  
United Nations conferences and summits**

## **Main decisions, outcomes and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security**

### **Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith a report on the main decisions, outcomes and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security.\*\*

\* [A/78/50](#).

\*\* The report is being issued without formal editing.



# Report on the main decisions, outcomes and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English,  
French, Russian and Spanish]

## Introduction

1. This report responds to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision 2011/217, in which the Council invited the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to transmit to ECOSOC every year a report on the main decisions, policy recommendations, and the results achieved by the Committee in the area of food security and nutrition, in accordance with its roles and vision. More information regarding the roles and vision of the Committee can be found in documents [A/66/76-E/2011/102](#) and [A/65/73-E/2010/51](#). More recently, the Committee re-affirmed its commitment to these roles and vision as described in document [CFS 2018/45/3](#), and endorsed at CFS 45 in October 2018.

2. This report describes the main outcomes and decisions taken by the Fiftieth Session of CFS held in October 2022, and concluded on 19 December 2022 and, where relevant, provides updates on follow-up actions. The Final Report of the Session is available at [CFS 50/Report](#).

## Main decisions, recommendations and results

### 1. Ministerial Segment: Coordinating policy responses to the global food crisis – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022

3. During the plenary session, the Committee:

(a) expressed deep concerns over the current state of global food insecurity: the estimated 702 to 828 million people facing hunger in 2021; nearly 3.1 billion people who could not afford a healthy diet in 2020, representing an increase of 112 million people in just one year; and nearly 670 million people who may still be facing hunger in 2030, the same number as in 2015 when the 2030 Agenda was launched;

(b) underlined that geopolitical instability and increasing conflicts undermine food security and nutrition and have negative impact on agrifood systems, with a special emphasis on the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and agrifood systems, economic downturns, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other shocks and crises<sup>1</sup>;

(c) underscored the disproportionate impact of the global food crisis on the poor, small scale food producers and family farmers, women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and children, as well as those living in vulnerable situations, exacerbating humanitarian needs and increasing the risk of famine around the world; the surge and extreme volatility in international food commodity prices; the rise in fertilizer prices and the shortages caused by supply chain disruptions, affecting crop yields and threatening agricultural productivity and production; the rise

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<sup>1</sup> The Russian Federation states that it disassociates itself from paragraph (d) of the Report of the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security due to the fact that conflicts and their characterization with legal implications are not within the mandate of CFS.

in energy and fuel prices, which is further increasing food prices, narrowing fiscal space, resulting in further debt distress and economic downturns;

(d) reaffirmed its commitment to strive for a world free from hunger, where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines for the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security;

(e) recalled UNGA resolution 76/264 “State of global food insecurity”, and welcomed the determination of the international community to address the global food security crisis on the basis of unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation, recognizing the fundamental role of the United Nations system in catalysing and coordinating a comprehensive global response, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General;

(f) emphasized the role of the CFS, within the areas of its competence, in monitoring and analyzing the impacts of crises and conflicts, economic downturns, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other shocks and crises;

(g) noted the importance of combining short and medium-term with long-term solutions to the crisis, leading towards agriculture and food systems that are more, resilient, sustainable, and inclusive, in line with the 2030 Agenda;

(h) acknowledged the progress achieved under the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG), led by the UN Secretary-General, welcomed the High-Level Special Event co-convened on 18 July 2022 at the UN Headquarters in New York by the President of the General Assembly (PGA) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) entitled “Time to Act Together: Coordinating Global Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis”;

(i) called on leveraging the convening power of the CFS to strengthen coordinated global policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis, in line with the CFS reform document.

## **2. Empowering Youth in Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems. Endorsement and Uptake of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for food security and nutrition**

4. The Committee endorsed the ‘CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition’, as a key inter-governmentally-agreed, voluntary and non-binding global policy framework in support of country-led efforts towards achieving food security and nutrition.

5. In particular, the Committee:

(a) noted the importance of seizing the opportunities for youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems, while at the same time addressing the complex and multidimensional challenges faced by young people;

(b) encouraged all CFS stakeholders to support and promote at all levels, within their constituencies, the dissemination, use, and application of these Policy Recommendations, in order to support the development, enhancement and implementation of coordinated and multi-sectoral national policies, laws, programmes, regulatory frameworks, investment plans, and various regional food security and nutrition initiatives;

(c) encouraged all stakeholders to document lessons learned from using the Policy Recommendations and to share progress and experiences with the Committee;

(d) decided to transmit the Policy Recommendations to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD for their further consideration, regarding supporting their utilization at country level, in line with country requests, and decided to request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to consider, ensure and encourage the wide dissemination and implementation of the Policy Recommendations to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies.

6. Last, the Committee agreed to include these Policy Recommendations in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS-GSF).

### **3. Empowering Women and Girls and Promoting Gender Equality. Update and discussion on the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition**

7. The Committee recognized that advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is critical to addressing the current global food security crisis and achieving CFS' vision of ending hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all, and for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

8. Further it recognized that gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is essential to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as ensuring the sustainability of the food systems in the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental).

9. Members reiterated its continued support for an inclusive and consensus-based process to achieve agreement on the 'CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition' to be presented for endorsement at the 51st CFS Plenary Session in October 2023.

### **4. Data collection and analysis tools for improving food security and nutrition**

10. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation the report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) on "Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition" and called for the elaboration of an agreed set of policy recommendations on the topic to be presented for endorsement at CFS 51 in October 2023.

11. Further the Committee:

(a) recognized that there are critical and urgent data gaps related to all dimensions of food security and nutrition indicators; and it called for greater collection, analysis, and dissemination of data on all dimensions of food security and nutrition, disaggregated by sex and age, and gender-statistics, and statistical information on disabilities;

(b) acknowledged that measurement of progress of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and all other SDGs of the 2030 Agenda require high-quality, accessible, timely, actionable, reliable and disaggregated data;

(c) highlighted the need to protect data, ensure proper use of digital technologies, and address data governance, ensuring protection of data, privacy rights and intellectual property rights, in line with multilaterally agreed standards and protocols; and

(d) made a plea to the multilateral financial institutions and the donor community to mobilize resources to fund global and national initiatives aimed at closing data funding gaps in the fields of food security and nutrition, agricultural and rural statistics.

## **5. CFS Strategic Direction Toward 2030**

12. The Committee considered the third note on ‘Critical, Emerging and Enduring Issues for Food Security and Nutrition’, prepared by the CFS HLPE-FSN, and underscored its relevance in preparation of the next 2024–2027 CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

13. The Committee reviewed and updated its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2020–2023.

14. With reference to the COVID-19 pandemic and the global food crisis, the Committee requested continued deliberation on, and due attention to, the impacts of the pandemic, as well as to the impacts of the ongoing global food crisis, on food systems, agriculture and nutrition, at all stages of the implementation of the approved MYPoW workstreams.

15. Further it requested the CFS Bureau to consider including a CFS session on the use and uptake of the CFS policy recommendations on “Food Price Volatility and Food Security” and on “Social Protection and Food Security” at CFS 51. The CFS Bureau already considered this request, in January 2023, and it approved the inclusion of a session on monitoring the use of these two sets of policy recommendations at CFS 51, next October.

16. The Committee requested the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) to undertake a study on “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation”, to be prepared and presented in 2024.

## **6. Boosting responsible investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems. Global thematic event on the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems**

17. A Global Thematic Event (GTE) was organized during CFS 50 to share experiences and good practices in the use and application of the 2014 CFS [Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems](#) (CFS-RAI).

18. The event highlighted the importance to boost financing for sustainable development, and increase access to resources for actions and efforts to achieve SDG 2 by 2030, in line with the integrated and indivisible framework of the 17 SDGs, and, reflecting on recent ECOSOC Financing for Sustainable Development Forums and on the “Financing for Development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond” process, the event put a spotlight on the importance of responsible investments in agriculture and food systems that are aligned with the SDGs.

19. Moreover, the Committee:

(a) agreed that responsible investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems, aligned with the SDGs, is essential for enhancing food security and nutrition and in supporting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, and that appropriate responses – such as a

significant increase in financing sustainable and inclusive food systems – are required to address the four pillars of food security and nutrition, and the SDGs.

(b) recognized that the CFS-RAI Principles, since their adoption in October 2014, have been utilized at global, national, and local levels, with coordinated effort applied by CFS Members, its Advisory Group, and the CFS Secretariat to ensure their dissemination and application in various international fora. Nevertheless, it encouraged additional efforts to promote a broader and systematic dissemination, use and application of the CFS-RAI Principles, where appropriate, at global, regional, national, and sub-national levels.

(c) requested the CFS Chairperson to propose to the Bureau, for discussion and consideration, during 2023, actionable steps to enhance the monitoring of responsible investments in agriculture and food systems and the financing for achieving SDG 2, in time for the 10th anniversary in 2024 of adoption of the CFS-RAI Principles.

(d) took note that efforts should be made by all CFS stakeholders to encourage adaptation of the CFS-RAI Principles based on specific contexts, needs, and priorities, and further mobilization of financial resources is needed to support stakeholders in the implementation of the CFS-RAI Principles and SDG 2 in order to achieve food security and nutrition.

## **7. CFS 50 SPECIAL EVENT: Food Systems Transformations: Building long-term resilience to global crises**

20. Recovery from the severe and lasting impacts of COVID 19 on food security and nutrition, that further exacerbated the current increasingly complex, multidimensional challenges, calls for stronger and more resilient food systems to support the global commitments towards advancing the 2030 Agenda. To this end, it is fundamental to accelerate progress towards inclusive and sustainable food systems and to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability throughout agriculture and food systems.

21. Building on a 15 July 2022 CFS/UNFSS Hub jointly-organized high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) Side Event – “Food System Transformations as 2030 Agenda Accelerators”, at CFS 50 the Committee organized a Special Event to provide a platform for a group of national conveners to share their experiences, lessons learned, and challenges linked to food systems pathways/transformation.

22. The Special Event highlighted evolving global efforts towards food system transformation in advancing the 2030 Agenda at country level against the current global food security landscape.

### **Report of the Fiftieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (10–13 October 2022, and 19 December 2022)**

23. The full Final Report of the fiftieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was held in hybrid modality, from 10–13 October 2022, and on 19 December 2022, can be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/3/nl291en/nl291en.pdf>.

24. Further information on the Session and all activities of the Committee can be located at: <https://www.fao.org/cfs>.