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**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/79/50.

** 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 Fifty-first Session of CFS held from 23 to 27 October 2023, and concluded on 25 November 2023 and, where relevant, provides updates on follow-up actions. The Final Report of the Session is available at [CFS 51/Report](#).

Main decisions, recommendations and results

1. Strengthening coordinated policy responses to the food crisis – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023¹

3. The Committee discussed the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2023 report jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), which highlighted the fact that global hunger is still far above pre-pandemic levels with an estimated 690 to 783 million people in the world having faced hunger in 2022.

4. The SOFI report additionally underlined that agrifood systems remain highly vulnerable to shocks and disruptions arising from conflict, climate variability and extremes, and economic contraction. These factors, combined with growing inequities, keep challenging the capacity of agrifood systems to deliver nutritious, safe and affordable diets for all.

5. Furthermore, the SOFI 2023 report underlined the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a vision of a healthier, more just and equal world, and referred to the importance of collaboration for achieving food security and nutrition goals.

6. Based on the discussions of the SOFI 2023 report and the current situation of food security in the world, the Committee stressed the need to refrain from using food and water as weapons of war in conflict areas, expressed the need for reliable, sustained, sufficient and unhindered access of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip, and in other conflict areas, including but not limited to water, food, medical supplies, and energy, and stressed the role of FAO, IFAD and

¹ An explanation of position on this Item is contained in Appendix D of the [CFS 51/Report](#).

WFP, in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and relevant bodies, to assess and address, within their respective mandates, the impact of the conflict on food security, nutrition, and agriculture in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

2. 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 in the context of food security and nutrition

7. The Committee endorsed the “Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition”, as a key intergovernmentally-agreed global policy framework in support of country-led efforts towards achieving food security and nutrition, taking note of their voluntary and non-binding nature.

8. In particular, the Committee:

(a) urged Members to utilize the Voluntary Guidelines within their policies, strategies, programs and regulatory frameworks, and to share progress and experiences with the Committee in line with the standard monitoring practice of the Committee and to support and promote at all levels, the dissemination, use, and application of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the development, enhancement and implementation of coordinated and multisectoral national policies, laws, programmes investment plans and innovative partnerships to tackle the root causes of gender inequalities and foster greater policy coherence among Gender Equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment (GEWE) and food security and nutrition agendas, and mutually reinforcing policy measures;

(b) commended countries that have voluntarily pledged to deploy the Voluntary Guidelines in their own national policy and/or legislative circumstances, in conjunction with commitments related to the 2030 Agenda, and encouraged other countries to take similar steps to actively utilize this CFS policy agreement as a tool for national-level, multistakeholder action to address all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, which negatively impact food security and nutrition for themselves and for their families, households, communities and countries, as well as related social, economic and sustainability issues;

(c) agreed to include the Voluntary Guidelines in the CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS GSF).

9. Further, the Committee requested the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to consider and ensure the wide dissemination of the Voluntary Guidelines on GEWE to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies, including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), consistent with Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15, of the Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rule X, paragraph 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and paragraph 21 of the CFS Reform Document.

3. Leveraging the use of data for driving food security and nutrition policy. Endorsement and Uptake of the Policy Recommendations on strengthening collection and use of FSN data and related analysis tools

10. The Committee endorsed 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” as an action-oriented, intergovernmentally-agreed, voluntary and non-binding, global policy

framework in support of country-led efforts towards improving food security and nutrition policies and actions.

11. Moreover, the Committee:

(a) called on all CFS stakeholders to support and promote the dissemination, use, and application of the Policy Recommendations at all levels within their constituencies, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms;

(b) encouraged all stakeholders to share commitments and document lessons learned from using the Policy Recommendations and to share progress and experiences with the Committee in order to assess their continued relevance, effectiveness, and impact – in line with the standard monitoring practice of the Committee – which is based on the principles of participation, transparency, and accountability;

(c) agreed to include the Policy Recommendations in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS GSF).

12. The Committee furthermore requested the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council and the UN Statistical Commission, to consider, ensure and encourage the wide dissemination and implementation of the Policy Recommendations to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies, consistent with Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15, of the Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations Organization, Rule X, paragraph 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and paragraph 21 of the CFS Reform Document.

13. Following the endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations, the UN Statistical Commission at its 55th session, approved the inclusion of a new agenda item on food security and nutrition statistics under the aegis of the Commission and invited FAO, UNICEF and WHO to report on the progress made on this item every two years and recommended to the UN Committee of Experts on Statistical Classification to consider food security and nutrition as a standalone statistical data domain in the Classification of statistical activities and report back to the Commission.

4. CFS Strategic Direction Toward 2030. The Multi-Year Programme of Work 2024–2027

14. The Committee endorsed the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2024–2027 which, through its cross-cutting focus areas, prioritized thematic workstreams and supporting activities, provides a comprehensive framework to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the achievement of SDG 2.

15. The Multi-Year Programme of Work document underlined the broad, inclusive nature and strategic vision of the MYPoW process, which aims at eliminating hunger and malnutrition through improved policy convergence and coherence at global level, leading to strengthened actions at national and regional levels.

16. The MYPoW activities were presented as a combination of four cross-cutting focus areas to provide a strong and coherent basis for prioritization and implementation, as well as a robust narrative of the areas in which CFS will deliver in the period 2024–2027, including:

- (a) enhancing equity and inclusiveness in agriculture and food systems;
- (b) fostering resilience of agriculture and food systems to shocks and stresses;
- (c) promoting agriculture and food systems actions that protect the planet; and

(d) strengthening means of implementation and collaborative action for food security and nutrition.

5. Addressing multiple dimensions of inequalities. Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition

17. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation the work of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) to prepare the report on “Reducing Inequalities 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 52 in October 2024.

18. The report prepared by the HLPE-FSN noted the fact that inequalities in food security and nutrition, leading to hunger and all forms of malnutrition, exist in all regions of the world both among and within countries.

19. It further highlighted that inequalities reduce people’s life chances and quality of life, lower their productivity, perpetuate poverty, and reduce economic growth as well as that these inequalities are exacerbated by fast-evolving climate change and conflicts, disproportionately affecting already vulnerable populations.

20. In addition, the report emphasized the need for bold efforts to reduce persistent inequalities in food security and nutrition in the face of rapid climate change, to increase public awareness of these inequalities and to catalyse the implementation of equity sensitive and transformative strategies and policies.

6. Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition

21. A Global Thematic Event (GTE) was organized during CFS 51 to share experiences and good practices in the use and application of the 2011 CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on the 2012 CFS Policy Recommendations on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition.

22. The event was informed by a background document, which highlighted that at a time of unprecedented threats to food security and nutrition, in a dynamically evolving global environment, global food crises are impacting food security at all levels and affecting the most vulnerable hardest. In this context, price volatility is described as a potential driver of food insecurity. Adverse effects on household incomes and purchasing power may push vulnerable people into hunger and poverty. As a response, social protection mechanisms and programmes gain attraction to mitigate vulnerability and to tackle food insecurity and hunger for households and individuals.

23. Furthermore, the background document illustrated that the Policy Recommendations on price volatility and social protection, since their adoption in 2011 and 2012 respectively, 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.

7. CFS 51 SPECIAL EVENT on the right to food

24. CFS 51 included a special event on the right to food, motivated by the fact that food security remains a critical global issue, exacerbated by various challenges such as climate change and conflicts. Achieving the right to adequate food for all requires concerted efforts and the implementation of effective policies and guidelines.

25. The event highlighted that voluntary guidelines can serve as a valuable tool in promoting food security, ensuring access to nutritious food, and addressing the

underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food, ahead of their 20th anniversary, were identified a reminder of the importance of international cooperation and collaboration towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG2, in the context of food systems transformation.

26. The Special Event provided an opportunity for a constructive dialogue between stakeholders focusing on the interlinkages between the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food and the evolving global food security and nutrition context. It further underlined that through improved coordination, policy convergence and coherence at global level, and contributing to strengthened actions at national and regional levels, the CFS aims at achieving SDG2 (Zero Hunger) and strives 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.

8. Other matters

27. The Committee proposed that the Fifty-second session of CFS be held from 21 to 25 October 2024 at FAO headquarters in Rome, as indicated in the Calendar of the FAO/IFAD/WFP Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2023–2024. The exact dates will be communicated by the Director-General of FAO and the Chairperson of the Committee, in line with Rule VII of the CFS Rules of Procedure.

28. The Committee elected Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN Agencies in Rome, as the Chairperson of CFS.

29. The Committee elected by acclamation the following Members of the CFS Bureau and their Alternates:

30. (a) Members:

- Africa: Burundi and Nigeria;
- Asia: the People's Republic of China and India;
- Europe: France and Switzerland;
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina (2023–2024) and the Federative Republic of Brazil (2023–2024), Cuba (2024–2025) and the Dominican Republic (2024–2025);
- Near East: the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Kuwait;
- North America: the United States of America;
- South-West Pacific: New Zealand.

(b) Alternates:

- a. Africa: the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali;
- b. Asia: Indonesia and the Kingdom of Thailand;
- c. Latin America and the Caribbean: Cuba (2023–2024) and the Dominican Republic (2023–2024), Argentina (2024–2025) and the Federative Republic of Brazil (2024–2025);
- d. Near East: the Kingdom of Morocco and the Sudan;
- e. North America: Canada;
- f. South-West Pacific: Australia.

31. The Committee elected through a secret ballot vote the following Alternate Members of the Bureau:

g. Europe: Norway and Romania.²

9. Report of the Fifty-first Session of the Committee on World Food Security (23–27 October 2023, and 25 November 2023)

32. The full Final Report of the fifty-first Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was held in hybrid modality, from 23–27 October 2023, and on 25 November 2023, can be found at the following link: https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/CFS51/Report/Endorsed_Report_CFS51/CFS_51_Final_Report_Nov_2023.pdf.

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

² The result sheet of the vote is included in Appendix N of the [CFS 51 Report](#).