

166th Session of the Council

Report of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (8-11 February 2021)

Secretariat response to written inputs from the Council

Zimbabwe:

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat would like to thank the Government of Zimbabwe for its positive comments on the report, and welcomes continued strong participation of Zimbabwe and other African countries in the work and deliberations of the CFS, especially current workstreams that are especially relevant to the continent; Agroecological and other innovative approaches, gender equality and women's empowerment, youth engagement and employment in food systems, and data collection and analysis tools.

Dominican Republic:

The CFS Secretariat would like to thank the Dominican Republic for being an active Member of the CFS Bureau, and Ambassador Arvelo, former CFS Chair, for being a strong advocate and champion of the CFS in other venues and occasions.

The CFS Secretariat wishes to congratulate the Dominican Republic for having taken the CFS Framework for Action in Protracted Crises to the UN Security Council during its presidency during 2020, and for raising attention to the food insecurity and conflict nexus at the highest political levels.

The Dominican Republic is right to point out the global significance of the CFS as an open and inclusive platform, and the importance of continued and equal RBA support to its operations.

The CFS Secretariat is looking for regional champions to support awareness, use and implementation of CFS products, including the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN), and would welcome the Dominican Republic continuing to take up such a role among GRULAC countries, including on the CFS workstream to promote gender equality and women/girls' empowerment.

United States of America:

The CFS Chair and Secretariat welcome the acknowledgement of the United States of America of the importance of the VGFSyN, thanks it for its active engagement in their negotiation, and seeks its continued support for efforts to promote its visibility and utilization at global, regional, national and local levels, both at home and abroad, and within the context of the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit.

The CFS Secretariat, upon request of the United States, added its 'explanation of position' as Appendix F to document [C 2021/20](#).

Argentina:

The CFS Secretariat welcomes the very comprehensive comments from the Government of Argentina and underlines the work undertaken by the CFS Chairperson, Bureau - including Argentina - and its Advisory Group, the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) Steering Committee, and the Secretariat for addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security and nutrition, particularly for the most vulnerable, marginalized and food insecure individuals and/or communities.

The CFS Secretariat acknowledges the proposal to organize regional consultations on the CFS Framework for Action in Protracted Crises to foster context-specific ideas and plans to facilitate their utilization and address protracted crises at their roots, and stand ready to further explore this in consultations with the delegation of Argentina and the CFS Bureau.

The CFS Secretariat welcomes Argentina's focus on rural and indigenous women for the development of Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and takes note of its comments on the VGFSyN, in particular the role of trade, value chains, and balancing economic, social and environmental sustainability priorities. The CFS Secretariat invites Argentina to consider championing the VGFSyN within its region to promote awareness and implementation.

Australia:

The CFS Secretariat thanks Australia for serving as an alternate Bureau member to New Zealand, and appreciates its recognition of the significant amount of work undertaken on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics, including COVID-19 response and Summit preparations.

The CFS Secretariat appreciates Australia for underscoring the importance of the CFS data workstream, and highlights that on 1 July 2021, the CFS Secretariat will organize a public event with the dual objective of (i) kick-starting the discussions on this topic within the CFS and (ii) informing the CFS HLPE report on this topic expected for mid-2022.

The CFS Secretariat welcomes extra-budgetary contributions for implementation of this workstream, as well as other Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023 activities, and encourages Australia to consider making a financial or in-kind contribution.

European Union (EU):

The CFS Secretariat thanks the EU for its endorsement of the report, for its detailed comments, and for its continuous strong support to the CFS since its reform.

The CFS Secretariat welcomes efforts by the EU to support dissemination and implementation of the VGFSyN among its Members, and among its development partners.

The CFS Secretariat takes note of the call to improve dialogue with the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM), and joins the EU in calling upon CSM to join consensus on the VGFSyN to strengthen their promotion and application.

The CFS Secretariat concurs with the EU's view on the value of the CFS HLPE and its inputs, and agrees that CFS must retain the ability and capacity to adapt its programme of work, as needed, to new and emerging Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) issues.

The CFS Secretariat welcomes the EU's endorsement of the updated MyPoW (2020-2023) and hopes the EU will continue to contribute, both technically and financially, to its successful implementation.

Japan:

The CFS Secretariat takes note of the positive comments from Japan, and welcomes Japan's commitment to support dissemination and use of VGFSyN, tailored to regional and national context and conditions, with an emphasis on digital technologies and increased private sector investment.

The CFS Secretariat would welcome Japan becoming a champion of the VGFSyN in Asia and beyond, including partnering with the CFS to promote use of the VGFSyN during its Nutrition for Growth Summit this year.

Thailand:

The CFS Secretariat welcomes the comments from Thailand, on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

The CFS Secretariat shares the concern that family farmers, small holders, and vulnerable people are among the groups hardest hit by the global pandemic, and agrees on the need to build back better by strengthening their livelihoods and resilience to shocks.

The CFS Secretariat agrees on the valuable inputs the VGFSyN will provide to the UN Food Systems Summit preparation and follow-up processes, and encourages the Government of Thailand to take a leadership role in promoting their uptake and implementation within the Asia Pacific region.

The CFS Secretariat encourages all Members and stakeholders to disseminate the VGFSyN, foster their implementation, and share lessons and challenges with other CFS members.

The CFS Secretariat agrees on the importance of the two new proposed dimensions of food security to advance progress on SDG 2 and Agenda 2030, as presented in the CFS HLPE Report #15.