

## **Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)**

### **32nd Session**

#### **CFS EVENT - CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **Value and application of policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security - CFS**

**Tuesday, 4 November 2020, 9.30-10.30**

The CFS event will highlight the relevance of the global policy work and inclusive approach of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to advance food security and nutrition. The event will in particular raise awareness on the forthcoming *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition* (VGFSyN) which is expected to be adopted in February 2021 at CFS 47 - ahead of the 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit now postponed to 2021, and the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. Participants will gain a clear understanding of the CFS, its core policy products such as the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (VGGT), and the need for multistakeholder, cross-sectoral and whole-of-government approaches to transform the global food system and advance food security and nutrition.

#### **Background**

As recognized by the 2019 Sustainable Development Goals Summit<sup>1</sup>, there is an urgent need to accelerate action by all stakeholders at all levels to fulfil the vision and goals of the 2030 Agenda. According to the 2020 report of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World<sup>2</sup>, world hunger has been on the rise since 2014 and 690 million people are hungry (8.9 percent of the world's population, up by nearly 60 million since 2014). The food security and nutritional status of the most vulnerable population groups is likely to deteriorate further due to the health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rome-based CFS, which is supported by FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), is accelerating such action, as the United Nations' foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. CFS dedicated its 46th plenary session in October 2019 to "Accelerating progress on SDG2 to achieve all the SDGs", and is promoting the application of its [wide range of policy recommendations](#) to advance food security and nutrition globally. Its current agenda includes policy work on food systems and nutrition, agroecology and other innovations, gender equality and women's empowerment, youth, data systems, and inequalities.

The 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) offers an important opportunity to have a dialogue with Ministers and High Level Officials on CFS and its inclusiveness model of policy collaboration among key stakeholders. It also allows promoting the forthcoming Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and sharing concrete experiences of the application of CFS policy recommendations that are positively impacting food security and nutrition in the region and are relevant to the themes of the conference.

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<sup>1</sup> "Political Declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly" (A/HLPF/2019/L.1)

<sup>2</sup> SOFI 2020 Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9692en/online/ca9692en.html>

The VGFSyN will contribute to the implementation of the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). They aim to bring coherence to the existing fragmentation with a special emphasis on the food, agriculture and health sectors, while also addressing livelihoods and sustainability challenges. They address the complex links between under-nutrition, obesity, and environmental sustainability in our current food systems, and recommend policy convergence in the most important areas associated with food and health, including in pandemics. Partnering across borders, across sectors, and with the private sector and civil society is essential to such coherence and to effective outcomes. The preparation of the guidelines is informed by the scientific evidence provided by the [Report on Nutrition and Food Systems](#) of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), and by inputs received at open meetings and regional consultations in 2019.

### **Purpose and Expected Outcomes**

The CFS event will help accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 by promoting CFS policy recommendations, with special attention to CFS VGFSyN which are set for adoption in February 2021 at CFS 47, and CFS VGGT adopted by the Committee in 2012.

By attending the CFS event, participants will:

- Obtain a clear understanding of CFS, its roles and the relevance of its policy products to the region;
- Understand how the CFS VGFSyN can contribute to regional, national and local food security strategies;
- Recognize the urgency of collective action to effectively use VGFSyN and other CFS policy products such as VGGT to achieve SDG 2 targets.

### **Main messages:**

- CFS policy work has proven to be relevant for the region to improve food security and nutrition.
  - o. CFS policy products include four major policy products<sup>3</sup> and 14 negotiated sets of policy recommendations based on the report of the independent CFS High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE).
- CFS inclusive multistakeholder approach enhances the quality of decision-making, increases ownership of the decisions, improves accountability and transparency of processes, and ultimately enriches the outcomes.
- CFS policy convergence processes take time and effort to build an understanding on the issues at stake and reach an agreement. But the pay-off is in the legitimacy and authority lent to the decisions.
- The VGFSyN will be a key reference document to address food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms within a food systems perspective in coming years.

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<sup>3</sup> The CFS major policy products are:

- The Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (RtF) endorsed in 2004;
- The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) endorsed in 2012;
- The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) endorsed in 2014; and
- The Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) endorsed in 2015.

## **Agenda of the Event**

Duration: 60 minutes.

The moderator welcomes the audience, outlines the objectives of the event and invites the FAO Director General to make brief remarks on CFS and its VGFSyN. The moderator then invites CFS Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to FAO, IFAD and WFP, to make a brief intervention on the nature of CFS, its policy achievements and ongoing and future workstreams. The moderator then introduces the panel.

The panel will be composed of representatives of CFS constituencies. They will briefly present examples of experiences in using CFS policy products, in particular the VGGT, and how nutrition can be advanced through multistakeholder action by reshaping and promoting sustainable food systems at local, national and regional level, and across sectors. The moderator will trigger interventions from the floor using guiding questions.

### **Panelists:**

- Mr. Thanawat Tiensin, CFS Chairperson and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the Rome Agencies
- Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- His Excellency Bojan Maricic, Minister of Justice of North Macedonia – will highlight some of the achievements in implementing the VGGT in the region
- His Excellency, Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, Chair of the CFS Open-ended Working Group on Food Systems and Nutrition – will introduce the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition
- Ms Isa Álvarez, Urgenci, CFS Civil Society Mechanism (CSM), Co-Coordinator of the CSM Working Group on Food Systems and Nutrition, CSM Consumer Constituency - will provide brief remarks on the CFS, its key products/role, and regional efforts to transform food systems
- Ms Katarina Eriksson, CFS Private Sector Mechanism (PSM), Project and Partnership Development Director, Tetra Laval – will provide brief remarks on the CFS, its key products/role, and regional efforts to transform food systems

### **Run of Show**

9:30: Moderator welcomes audience, presents the objectives of the event and introduces the panelists

9:35: Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General

9:40: CFS Chair

9:45: Panelists

10:05: Q&A

10:25: Wrap up by the moderator

10:30: Session ends