

174th Session of the FAO Council

Item 12: Report of the 51st Session of the Committee on World Food Security

(Rome, 23-27 October and 25 November 2023)

I have the pleasure to introduce to you *the Report of the 51st Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*, held in hybrid modality from 23 to 27 October, and on 25 November 2023. Its final Report is submitted to the Council for endorsement in document C 2025/19.

The Session was attended by 130 Members and 10 non-Members of the Committee. Participants included one Vice-President, 10 Ministers, 13 Vice-Ministers and three State Secretaries, as well as delegates from the United Nations (UN) system, financial institutions, civil society, research organizations, private sector associations and philanthropic foundations.

I would like to draw the Council's attention to the following points:

1. Discussions between Members and participants during CFS 51 illustrated the deep concern about the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition in different regions of the world and the immense challenges that remain in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger by 2030. The deliberations on the ongoing conflicts triggered a call for FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), within their respective mandates, and in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and relevant bodies, to assess and address the impact of conflicts on food security and nutrition.
2. The Committee endorsed the following policy agreements resulting from the work of the intersessional period and transmitted them to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD, with a request to support their use at country level:
 - a. The "CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition"; and
 - b. The "CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening the 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".
3. Another key milestone has been the Committee's endorsement of the new CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work 2024-2027, which reaffirms the strategic vision of the CFS and lays out cross-cutting focus areas, prioritizes thematic workstreams and supports activities focused on the transformation of agriculture and food systems. Overall, the new four-year plan provides a comprehensive framework to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the achievement of SDG 2.
4. The Committee also received the 18th Report of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN), entitled "Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition", as a basis for the preparation of an agreed set of policy recommendations to be proposed for endorsement at CFS 52 in October 2024.
5. The "Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition", jointly presented by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), outlined the work done by various institutions to promote the use of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at country level.
6. Furthermore, the agenda allowed for an in-depth exchange among Members and participants on:
 - a. Global Interlinkages of international food and agricultural fora and the intersections of the Rio Conventions with the CFS; and
 - b. Lessons and experiences arising from implementing CFS Policy Recommendations on price volatility and on social protection.

The full report of CFS 51 was adopted by consensus and it is available on the CFS website.

H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security