



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأمم المتحدة  
للأغذية والزراعة

E

# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Sixty-eighth Session

29 November-3 December 2021

### Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

#### Executive Summary

In keeping with established practice, the Council is informed of developments in other fora of importance for FAO's mandate:

- 1) COP 15 and COP 26 briefs on agriculture and food;
- 2) Science and innovation for agrifood systems transformation;
- 3) Emergency and resilience for food crisis action in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phases 3 or above countries;
- 4) Pathways for transforming agrifood systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all.

Further information on the above topics will be posted as Web Annexes to CL 168/INF/4.

#### Suggested action by the Council

The above topics are presented to the 168th Session of the Council for information only.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

Rakesh Muthoo  
Director  
Governing Bodies Servicing Division (CSG)  
Tel: +39 06570 55987  
E-mail: CSG-Director@fao.org

## I. COP 15 and COP 26 briefs on agriculture and food

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets expired in 2020. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was supposed to convene in 2020, was expected to be launching a new Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), including a new set of goals and targets to curb biodiversity loss. The rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress in efforts to develop the GBF.
2. The CBD COP 15 was planned to be held in two parts. The first part (Part I) was held online from 11 to 15 October 2021, and the second part (Part II) is to be held in person in Kunming, China, from 25 April to 8 May 2022. Part I of the meeting included a High-Level Segment, aiming at ensuring political momentum in support of the ongoing negotiations to develop an effective Post-2020 GBF that will be adopted at Part II. The High-Level Segment allowed in-depth discussions amongst Ministers, as well as international and regional organizations and non-Party stakeholders, to reinforce the ambition for the Post-2020 GBF. Furthermore, the Kunming Declaration: *Ecological civilization: building a shared future for all life on Earth*, was adopted by Ministers at the high-level segment on 13 October 2021.
3. The 52nd Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 52)<sup>1</sup> and the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26)<sup>2</sup>, initially scheduled for 2020, were organized in 2021. It aimed to finalize remaining decisions ensuring the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, including discussions on carbon market mechanisms, funding for loss and damage, delivery of USD 100 billion climate finance target, and common timeframes for revision of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Particularly relevant to agrifood systems, countries were expected to finalize remaining workshops under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and its roadmap (Decisions: 4/CP.23; FCCC/SBI/2018/9 and FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4).
4. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some exchanges to advance delayed work took place in the virtual format during UN Climate Change Dialogues (23 November – 4 December 2020) and during SB 52 (31 May and 17 June 2021). Discussions during these sessions were informal; the progress achieved in the informal consultations was captured in informal documents, while the official adoption was at COP 26, which took place in Glasgow between 31 October and 12 November 2021.

## II. Science and innovation for agrifood systems transformation

5. In preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and drawing on the Action Tracks and various dialogues, the Scientific Group organized the "[Science Days for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021](#)", facilitated and hosted by FAO on 8-9 July 2021. The Science Days were organized as two half-day virtual events, in combination with side events. More than 2,000 participants from research, policy, civil society and industry came together to examine how to unlock the full potential of science, technology and innovation to transform agrifood systems. Brief highlights of the discussions that took place during the two days have been published in a [report](#), with an emphasis on opportunities for investments in science and knowledge and evidence gaps that must be addressed to meaningfully and successfully transform agrifood systems. The Science Days were preceded by over 40 independently organized [side-events from 5 to 7 July 2021](#), with partners showcasing their insights.
6. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development established the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FAO is an active member of the UN Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (IATT). In 2021, FAO contributed to the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Forum) held on 4-5 May through STI Forum Session 2 entitled Effective paths towards the SDGs: STI for ending poverty and hunger, enhancing human well-being and building resilience and a High-Level Side Event on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs Roadmaps. FAO also actively contributed to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) through its dialogue on the Partnership

<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/may-june-2021-climate-change-conference-sessions-of-the-subsidiary-bodies>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/glasgow-climate-change-conference>

in Action on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps and a high-level session on mobilizing science, technology and innovation and strengthening the science-policy-society interface held on 9 July 2021.

### **III. Emergency and resilience for food crisis action in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phases 3 or above countries**

7. For the past five years, FAO and partners have been alerting to a steady growth in the number of people experiencing crisis or worse levels (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phases 3+) of acute food insecurity. Since mid-2020, FAO and World Food Programme (WFP) have warned of an acceleration in this trend, driven by a toxic combination of conflict, economic shocks exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate disruption. In 2020, the figure rose sharply to 155 million, and the Global Network Against Food Crises and Food Security Information Network currently estimate that at least 161 million people were experiencing high acute food insecurity between January and September 2021.

8. As of September 2021, over 500 000 people are facing famine-like or famine-likely conditions (IPC Phase 5) in four countries. On 11 March 2021, at the UN Security Council debate on conflict and food security, the UN Secretary-General called for a swift, coordinated response and appealed to UN Member States and partners to take action to prevent famine and a further deterioration in emergency levels of food insecurity. The Secretary-General established a High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine to bring attention and mobilize support for the most affected countries. The Task Force, led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), FAO and WFP, is advocating for additional resources to scale up humanitarian response and stop the advance of famine, promoting improved access to people in need, and facilitating coherent sharing of data and real-time information.

9. Within the Task Force, FAO is advocating for anticipatory and rapid action to safeguard livelihoods and avert further deteriorations, noting that the vast majority of affected populations rely on some form of agriculture for their survival. On 6 October 2021, in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Action on Conflict and Hunger, OCHA, FAO and WFP convened a virtual high-level event on action in support of preventing and ending famine now. At the virtual event, participants took stock of recent efforts to stop the advance of famine and famine risk. They also discussed urgent actions the international community must take to prevent a deterioration in the global severity and scale of acute food insecurity. Member States and partners also heard about the efforts of the High-level Task Force on Preventing Famine. Keynote speakers and Member States widely called for strengthening approaches and collaboration among humanitarian, development and peace actors to prevent famine in the long term, while acknowledging the importance of increasing funding and support to agricultural livelihoods within humanitarian response and the need to invest in resilient and inclusive agrifood systems.

### **IV. Pathways for transforming agrifood systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all.**

10. This is the fifth year that 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 Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have jointly produced "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World". In addition to providing the first comprehensive assessment of the state of hunger and food insecurity for 2020 based on fresh data collected around the world in a year heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, a key development is the identification of six pathways to follow towards agrifood systems transformation. These pathways are being proposed to specifically address the major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition, including conflict, climate variability and extremes, and economic slowdowns and downturns – all of which are increasing in intensity and frequency and more frequently occurring in combination. In partnership with the other Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and agencies across the UN System, FAO will coordinate support to countries in the implementation of these pathways at country level.