

Fifty-third session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 20 – 24 October 2025

Guide to CFS 53

Introduction

Welcome to the fifty-third plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 53), taking place between **20 and 24 October 2025** in a hybrid format in Rome, Italy.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was established in 1974, and reformed in 2009, with the vision to be the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform of the United Nations system for promoting food security and nutrition for all. Using a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach, CFS Members and stakeholders develop and endorse policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of topics relevant to food security and nutrition and aiming towards the universal realization of the right to food.

Plenary Session Overview

The Plenary will begin with opening statements by UN high-level representatives followed by the presentation of the Report “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025”, a panel discussion comprising regional perspectives on this year's SOFI theme (TBC), and the presentation of the CFS summary report on Collaborative Governance as well as of the outcomes of the CFS High Level Forum on Climate, Biodiversity and the Right to Food. Three parallel satellite sessions will be held during lunchtime with the objective of stimulating interactive dialogues on existing and potential partnerships between CFS and relevant international initiatives and on how to make the best use of the CFS multistakeholder platform and its evidence-based policy products to promote food security and nutrition. While these sessions will not be part of the CFS 53 Provisional Agenda, their outcomes will be reported back to the Plenary by Rapporteurs identified within the CFS Membership. The sessions will be characterized by an interactive format and focus on the following topics:

- Session 1: Promoting responsible governance of tenure: the role of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (CFS VGGT) in the context of the Second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICCARD+20);
- Session 2: Keeping food security and nutrition high on the global agenda: the role of CFS and its policy products in the context of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, G20 and G7;
- Session 3: Eradicating hunger and all forms of malnutrition: the role of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in the context of the Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) and the United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4).

The three moderated sessions will be co-organized by different stakeholders and held in parallel.

During its 53rd Session, the Committee is expected to endorse its Policy Recommendations on Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation as well as the Mid-Term Review of the CFS 2024-2027 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

The Plenary will host a High-Level Forum dedicated to responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition, while another session will be dedicated to discuss and share views on the HLPE-FSN Report on Building resilient food systems.

Additionally, the Plenary will include a discussion on progress, challenges and ways to improve the use of CFS policy products as well as a stocktaking session to monitor the use and application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises.

The Committee will also elect the new CFS Chairperson, the members of the Bureau and their alternates.

CFS 53 Logistics

Dates and format: Monday 20 to Friday 24 October 2025. Both the CFS plenary and side events are held in hybrid format. See last page for more details on planned side events.

Morning plenary: 10:00 – 13:00 (Rome time).

Afternoon plenary: 15:00 – 18:00 (Rome time).

Evening plenary sessions: Monday 20 October 18:00 – 21:00 (Rome time)

Drafting Committee: Thursday 23 October at 18.30 and Friday at 8.30. Room location, FAO HQs

Hosting: CFS 53 will be organized in a hybrid format with selected high-level speakers, Members and Participants attending in person at FAO Headquarters in Rome, and with other participants joining virtually via ZOOM ('Meeting' format). The Plenary sessions will also be available via webcast.

Participation and languages: CFS 53 is open to all CFS Members, Participants and Observers. Its formal plenary sessions will be conducted in all FAO languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

Timekeeping and high-level participation: CFS plenary sessions provide the opportunity for meaningful dialogue and interaction among stakeholders, including the space for delegation heads to present their formal statement to the open plenary session, or submit it in writing if they prefer. Delegates are asked to keep their interventions succinct (three minutes or less unless presented by a Minister or constituency delegation head or on behalf of an entire regional group that would be allowed up to five minutes) and relevant to the item under discussion. Lengthy formal statements are not foreseen, but presentations longer than the apportioned time can be shared electronically with the CFS Secretariat and posted on its public website. A traffic light system will be in place to help delegates stay within the allocated time.

All delegates are requested to email their statements to CFS@fao.org, at least one hour before the session, so they can be shared with the interpreters for interpretation in FAO's six official languages, and to be posted in the Statements section of the CFS 53 web page (in their original language).

In the event that a Member delegation will include senior-level participation such as a Minister, Vice Minister, State Secretary (or equivalent), they should inform the CFS Secretariat in order for that delegation head to be given priority protocol consideration on the Speakers List.

Registration for Member and Non-Member states: Diplomatic representatives designated to attend the CFS 53 must register online using their protected password reserved for FAO Permanent Representatives at <https://www.fao.org/members-gateway/home/en/> by XX September 2025.

Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the FAO Members' Gateway.

Registration for other Stakeholders: Participants and Observers designated to attend the 53rd Session of CFS should send an email to CFS53-Registration@fao.org by XX September 2025 indicating names and last names, organization, official title, address, and email address. Personalized links to access the virtual meeting will be made available upon receipt of the above information.

Enquiries: Please contact the CFS Secretariat at CFS@fao.org.

More information: Please visit the CFS 53 webpage where latest news, documents and updates will be posted.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS *(for information and for decision)*

The Membership of the Committee will be confirmed, the CFS 53 Provisional Agenda and Timetable adopted, and the Drafting Committee appointed. Furthermore, the Committee will be asked to consider and endorse the document outlining the modalities for the preparation of the CFS 53 Final Report.

II. THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2025 - STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS *(for information and discussion)*

The session will include:

- a) Opening statements by the following, or their delegates (which will be posted on the CFS 53 Session document webpage):
 - The UN Secretary-General;
 - The Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
 - The President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
 - The Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP);
 - The President of the United Nation General Assembly (UNGA);
 - The President of the United Nation Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
 - The Chair of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE-FSN) Steering Committee;
 - The CFS Chairperson.
- b) Presentation of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report 2025;
- c) [2025 SOFI theme]: Panel discussion on regional perspectives
- d) Presentation of the CFS summary report on Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation;
- e) Presentation of the outcomes of the CFS High-Level Forum on Tackling Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Land Degradation through the Right to Food;
- f) Presentation of the outcomes of the satellite sessions on strengthening CFS partnerships with relevant international initiatives to promote food security and nutrition;
- g) Delegate statements on strengthening coordination and collaborative actions for food security and nutrition.

III. HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON STRENGTHENING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT AND FINANCING FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION *(for information and discussion)*

The High-Level Forum will represent an opportunity to discuss the current state of investments and financing for food security and nutrition, including cost estimates as well as identifying potential solutions for increasing the amount of investments and financing for food security and nutrition. The Forum will invite high-level representatives of Member States and key CFS stakeholders to reflect on the status and evolution of financing in agriculture and food systems and to deliberate on how

standards and principles, such as the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), can be used to further mobilize responsible investments. Furthermore, the session provides an opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to present and raise awareness about good practice examples. As such, the High-Level Forum will increase awareness and visibility for the importance of innovative solutions to increase investment and financing for food security and nutrition in alignment with the CFS's mandate. The High-Level Forum will be informed by a HLPE-FSN Background Note on the topic.

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by Plenary.

[The session rollout will be further defined in collaboration with the Technical Task Team assigned in support of the preparation of the High-Level Forum]

Background documents:

[...]

IV. PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ACROSS THE RURAL-URBAN CONTINUUM: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING URBAN AND PERI-URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE CONTEXT OF URBANIZATION AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION (for decision)

Following the release of a dedicated report by CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) in 2024, and multi-stakeholder consultations and negotiations in 2025, during this session the Committee is expected to endorse the CFS Policy Recommendations on *Strengthening Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition, in the context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation*".

The session will also represent an opportunity for CFS stakeholders to share ideas and proposals on how to promote dissemination, use and application of the policy recommendations at all levels to strengthen urban and peri-urban food systems, including interrelated systems, while adopting a rural–urban continuum lens.

Session Rollout:

- a) Presentation of the final draft of the policy recommendations by Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji, Alternate Permanent Representative of India to FAO, IFAD, and WFP, Rapporteur of the CFS policy convergence process on Strengthening Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems;
- b) Endorsement of the policy recommendations;
- c) Keynote remarks by [TBC];
- d) Interventions from the floor.

At the end of the session, draft decisions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by Plenary.

Background documents:

[...]

V. BUILDING RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for discussion)

Following the launch of the CFS HLPE-FSN Report on Building Resilient Food Systems in September, this agenda item will mark the beginning of the CFS policy convergence process on this thematic area. The objectives of this session are to provide the CFS plenary with an opportunity to discuss the relevant policy findings of the HLPE-FSN report and give guidance on the issues to be addressed in the development of CFS Policy Recommendations on this topic.

Session Rollout:

This agenda item will be divided into two parts:

a) CFS HLPE-FSN report presentation: Drafting Team Leader, Ms Alison Blay-Palmer, will present an overview of the main findings and recommendations of the CFS HLPE-FSN Report, focusing on implications for the upcoming CFS policy convergence process.

b) Delegates' discussion on the findings of the report.

Delegates are encouraged to share their views on the basis of the following guiding questions:

[...]

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Plenary.

Background documents:

[...]

VI. STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT OF CFS POLICY PRODUCTS (for information and discussion)

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) develops policy products on a wide range of food security and nutrition-related topics, using a multistakeholder and evidence-based approach. Following their endorsement at global level, it is key to promote collective efforts to strengthen the impact of these policy products facilitating their integration into national and regional legislation, technical programmes as well as into policy frameworks.

The promotion of the use of CFS policy products is a collective responsibility that requires joint efforts and close collaboration between all relevant stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels.

To facilitate these efforts, the Committee at its 52nd Plenary Session held in 2024 endorsed an Action Plan to Strengthen the Uptake of CFS Policy Products. This Action Plan is intended to provide a roadmap with actions for different CFS stakeholders that are responsible and accountable for promoting the uptake of CFS policy products.

The Action Plan recommends, among other things, the dedication of regular agenda items during CFS plenaries to discuss progress, challenges and ways to improve the use of CFS policy products at all levels. These dialogues are intended to be an opportunity to share and discuss lessons learned from CFS uptake experiences, particularly in pilot countries, with a view to informing future strategies for the promotion of the use of CFS policy products and feeding the preparation of future CFS programmes of work.

Session Rollout:

- a) Introductory remarks by H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador of South Africa and CFS Chairperson;
- b) Keynote presentation by [...];
- c) Moderated panel discussion to present concrete examples of and lessons learned from the uptake of CFS policy products:
[...]
- d) Delegates are invited to interact with members of the panel and share views on the basis of the following guiding questions:
 - In view of the agreed Action Plan and the proposed follow-up actions, which activities should be prioritized with a view to fostering the uptake of CFS policy products and creating enabling environments at national level?
 - Which activities should be implemented to mainstream CFS policy products in the context of relevant international fora as a way to raise their visibility and awareness among a wider audience?
 - Which opportunities can be explored, and which synergies can be established to promote joint programming and resource mobilization to support the implementation of CFS policy products?

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Plenary.

Background documents:

[...]

VII. CFS STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 2030 (for decision)

CFS members will be asked to consider the Mid-Term Review of the CFS 2024-2027 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) which will complement the annual update of the rolling section, as prepared by the Bureau in consultation with the Advisory Group.

Ms Erma Rheindrayani (Indonesia), facilitator of the process, will introduce the document, followed by interventions by CFS stakeholders.

At the end of the session, a draft decision will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Plenary.

Background documents:

[...]

VIII. GLOBAL THEMATIC EVENT ON CONFLICTS AND FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: ADVANCING THE UPTAKE OF THE CFS FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN PROTRACTED CRISES (for information and discussion)

Food insecurity and undernutrition are the most serious and common manifestations of protracted crises, which disrupt both livelihoods and food systems. Each protracted crisis, whether prolonged or recurrent, is different, but include some combination of conflict, occupation, terrorism, man-made and

natural disasters, natural resource pressures, climate change, inequalities, prevalence of poverty, and governance factors as underlying causes of food insecurity and undernutrition. These affect key dimensions of food security - availability, access, stability, and utilization - and the nutritional status of a significant number of people, and overstretch local, national and international capacities and resources, demanding policies and actions that are more effective, efficient, and take into account the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social, and environmental.

In line with the 2024-2027 MYPoW, a Global Thematic Event (GTE) on conflicts and food security and nutrition will be held at CFS 53 in 2025 to advance the uptake of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) and monitor progress in its use and application. This event will also mark the 10th anniversary of the framework's endorsement.

The eleven interconnected and complementary Principles of the CFS-FFA strive to strengthen policy coherence in line with the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, by fostering coordination of policies and actions taken in the fields of humanitarian assistance, development and human rights.

The event is informed by the documented experiences and good practices of a broad range of stakeholders in the use and application of these principles and will enable a multi-stakeholder dialogue that will contribute to monitoring progress in implementing the CFS-FFA at national, regional and global levels.

Session rollout:

- a) Introductory remarks by H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador of South Africa and CFS Chairperson;
- b) Keynote presentation by [...];
- c) Moderated panel discussion to outline experience that embed the CFS-FFA Principles, with special attention to the challenges met, the results obtained and the good practices:
[...]
- d) Delegates are invited to interact with members of the panel and share views on the basis of the following guiding questions:
 1. In the context of its 10th anniversary, what were and are the FFA Principles most relevant to your particular contexts to meet the needs of all affected and at-risk populations and people living in vulnerable situations?
 2. What are the main constraints and challenges in using these CFS-FFA principles for improving the food security and nutrition in protracted crises?
 3. What good practices would you recommend for the successful use of CFS-FFA principles?
 4. What more could CFS do on this topic, to support stakeholders to better address food security in protracted crises?

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Plenary.

Background documents:

[...]

IX. FOSTERING MOMENTUM AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION: ACCELERATING ACTION TOWARDS 2030 AND BEYOND (for information and discussion)

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), co-hosted in November 2014 by FAO and WHO, was a high-level intergovernmental conference that focused global attention on malnutrition in all its forms and aimed to move nutrition issues higher up the development agenda. As recommended at ICN2, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed 2016–2025 as the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (“Nutrition Decade”) in April 2016. At that time, the Nutrition Decade marked a new ambition and direction in global nutrition action to accelerate the implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve the global nutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases targets by 2025, and contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. In 2016, CFS agreed to allocate time every two years in its annual session to discuss progress in implementing ICN2 policies and actions relevant to CFS.

The Nutrition Decade provided modalities of engagement for sharing knowledge, recognizing successes, voicing challenges and promoting collaboration for improved nutrition. Much progress has been made and much has changed since the declaration of the Nutrition Decade, including the endorsement of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in 2021. Marking its tenth year, the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Nutrition Decade is using the year 2025 to convene various dialogues with stakeholders to reflect on global progress achieved and identify opportunities to foster momentum and political commitment for nutrition at the global level and spur to more nutrition actions towards 2030 and beyond.

With this context, the 2025 CFS session will be used to host an informal dialogue with CFS stakeholders.

Session Rollout:

- a) Introductory remarks by representatives from FAO and WHO;
- b) Delegates are invited to share views based on the following guiding questions:
 1. In your opinion, has the Nutrition Decade help advance the global nutrition agenda and put the spotlight on nutrition at global high-level events from 2016 to 2025?
 2. In the current context, is there a role for the Nutrition Decade to support efforts to maintain political momentum for nutrition action? Which potential synergies and areas of collaboration can be strengthened in order to promote the use of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at country level?

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Plenary.

Background documents:

[...]

X. OTHER MATTERS (for decision)

During this item, a new Chairperson will be elected, and new Bureau Members and their Alternates will be presented for decision. Arrangements for the CFS 54 Plenary Session in October 2026 will be discussed. The CFS 53 Final Report, as presented by the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, will also be adopted (advance electronic copies of the Final Report will be made available during the early afternoon of Friday 24 October 2025).

NOTE ON SIDE EVENTS

The 53rd Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 53) will be held from **20 to 24 October 2025** in Rome, Italy. The CFS 53 provisional timetable and agenda will be available soon on the CFS website.

CFS invites Members, Participants and all stakeholders engaged in food security and nutrition to send proposals for side events, which will take place from 21 to 24 October 2025 in **hybrid format** at the following time slots:

Morning slot: 08:30-09:45 and

Lunch slot: 13:30-14:45.

The **primary purpose of CFS 53 side events is to enrich and complement the Plenary session** by aligning with the **Multi-Year Programme of Work 2024-2027** and highlighting relevant work and activities that can showcase, document or propose the use and application of CFS policy products.

The following criteria must be considered when submitting a proposal for a CFS 53 side event.

- Relevance and consistency with the topics for discussion, namely:
- building resilient food systems;
 - strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems;
 - climate, biodiversity and the right to food;
 - strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition; increase awareness, ownership and use of CFS policy products at all levels; and
 - conflicts and food security.
- Inclusion of cross-cutting issues related to food security and nutrition such as youth and gender dimensions and Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, *inter alia*.
- Reflection of the CFS multistakeholder approach, with at least four organizers from different CFS constituencies (Members, UN System Agencies, International Organizations, CFS Mechanisms, Research Institutions, etc.), and promoting inclusivity and multilingualism.
- Interactivity and engagement with the audience should be no less than one third of the allocated time.
- Clarity, conciseness and brevity of proposals.

Side events will be selected by the CFS Chairperson among applications received by the formal deadline. Only complete submissions will be examined. **The deadline for applications is Friday 16 May 2025, at 23:59 (Central European Time)**. The applicants' focal points will be informed of the outcomes of the selection process by Monday 30 June 2025.

Different proposals for CFS side events may converge on similar topics. In such instances, CFS Secretariat may invite organizing institutions to merge such proposals, which increases the likelihood of selection. However, the decision to merge, if proposed, is voluntary.

Link to CFS 53 Side Events [Application Form](#).