

# “How do we get on track to end poverty and hunger, and transform towards inclusive and sustainable economies? Session on SDGs 1, 2, 8, 17 and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs”

Wednesday, 7 July 2021 from 9:00-12:15 (New York, GMT-04:00)

## Background information

The Ministerial Respondents are expected to address the questions in the annotated programme. They should focus on critical issues and trends and policy recommendations. They should focus on national experiences, good practices, challenges or trade-offs likely to be of the greatest interest for other countries.

## CFS Chair remarks

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Good morning, afternoon or evening – depending on where you are - my name is Thanawat Tiensin, I am from Thailand, and I am the Chairperson of the Rome-based Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the UN’s foremost inclusive inter-governmental platform to address governance of food security and nutrition.
- The CFS produces multilaterally-negotiated policy convergence products, based on the expert reports of our High-Level Panel of Experts, and directly address the key issues around food systems that need to be addressed to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. Our Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, adopted this February, is directly relevant here, as is the CFS HLPE’s Issues Paper on COVID-19 and food security and nutrition.
- We are at a critical turning point. Hundreds of millions are under-nourished; More than 3 billion people cannot afford healthy diets, while obesity and food-linked diseases are spreading across the globe, at huge costs to us all.

- The COVID pandemic has made things worse with major disruptions to food supply chains induced by lockdowns to contain the disease; food workers becoming unable to plant, harvest, transport or sell their produce; with a major global economic slowdown and food price rises that are disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable.
- The most recent estimates indicate that 160 million additional people will experience food insecurity as a direct or indirect result of the pandemic. I understand that the next SOFI report, to be released on 12 July, will show even more worrying numbers.
- At CFS we believe that the issues of hunger and malnutrition must be tackled using a systemic approach. Our diets and food production must radically change if we want to achieve the Goals set for 2030. We hope the UN Food Systems Summit will prompt this transformation, and allow for shifts to a more sustainable path.
- The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition promote policy coherence and provide guidance to address malnutrition in all its forms through a holistic 'food systems' lens that considers food systems in their totality, highlighting the multi-dimensional drivers of hunger and malnutrition.
- The CFS supports adoption of nature-based solutions to address the issues of severe hunger and malnutrition, including through its just-adopted Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches, which provide guidance on how to strengthen sustainable agriculture and food systems that are resilient, equitable, diversified, support climate change adaptation and mitigation, provide healthy diets and respect human rights.
- CFS is also working on developing Voluntary Guidelines to promote women and girls' equality and empowerment as well as policy recommendations to foster participation of youth and their employment in agriculture and other rural non-farm activities.

- We need to fight inequalities around food security and nutrition, and we need to invest in data systems to know where we stand in terms of progress on SDG2, design better policies, and drive investments in the right direction to eliminate hunger and all forms of malnutrition. Inequality and data are two of the thematic areas the Committee is working on.
- Using the CFS's multi-stakeholder, inclusive, consensus- and evidence-based model, we can all foster policy coherence and convergence to reverse negative food security and nutrition trends in this era of pandemics, increasing disparities, and economic turmoil.
- Thank you!