



Dear Private Sector Mechanism Delegates,

PSM had an active participation at CFS52 and with all activities leading up to the event. We sincerely thank all the delegates who participated in the 52nd plenary session of the CFS. PSM was represented by a delegation of 124 from 27 countries.

We are pleased to report that this year's delegation included a diverse gender, geographical, and age representation (see below). The high level of participation by business leaders to the CFS is a tangible demonstration of the important role of the private sector in pursuit of global food security.

Key outcomes of the session include the endorsement of the Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition, the Global Thematic event on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food and the Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment.

Negotiations are underway on the dates for CFS53, anticipated in September/October 2025.

Key achievements for the Private Sector Mechanism during the 52nd plenary session of the CFS include:

- A strong presence at the CFS sessions with 124 business leaders.
- 50% of them being women, 49% men and 1% non-binary.
- Participation across 27 countries.
- 11 bilateral meetings that demonstrated the important role of the Private Sector in global food security and further highlighted private sector commitments, priorities and support for the work of CFS.
- These included meetings with regional and country representatives as well as representatives of UN agencies. The bilateral meetings were arranged between the PSM and the following:
- 1. Minister Wellington Dias, Minister of Social Development and the Fight Against Hunger of Brazil
- 2. Dr. Ophelia Nick, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- 3. H.E. Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Chair of CFS
- 4. H.E Ambassador Fatimata Cheiffou, Permanent Representative of Niger and members of the Africa Regional Group
- 5. H.E. Ambassador Yousef Juhail, Permanent Representative of Kuwait and members of the Near East and North Africa Regional Group
- 6. Ms. Jenny Reid, Chair of the Southwest Regional Group and Ms. Emma Hatcher, Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia
- 7. Ms. Qamer Hameed, Alternate Permanent Representative of Canada, Ms. Ellen Luger, Minister Counselor of the US Embassy to FAO and Mr. Paul Welcher, Agricultural Attaché of the US Embassy to FAO, on behalf of the Co-chairs of North America Regional Group
- 8. Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Director of the FAO Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and the Environment
- 9. Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the FSS Coordination Hub



- 10. Mr. Carlos Watson, Senior Coordinator, Partnership and UN Collaboration and members of the Unit
- 11. Dr. Akiko Suwa-Eisenmann, Chair, HLPE-FSN, Dr. Ian Wright, Vice Chair, HLPE-FSN and Ms. Paola Termine, HLPE-FSN Coordinator ad interim and CFS Officer



In Plenary, PSM was able to make 14 interventions and was complimented on several occasions for its insights and contributions. We would like to thank the following delegates who represented PSM in plenary and/or delivered statements: Sharon Mulandana Nkhangweni, Andy Macfarlane, Mandla Aventina Tshabalala, Olawole Tunmise Olagbaju, Yolène Pagès, Nate Blum, Karol Kissane, Tintswalo Makhubele, Chris Hogg, Claire Fehrenbach, Michael Keller, Janice Giddens, Robert Arvier.



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- PSM members organized 7 side events this year reaching over 488 attendees in person and virtually. These were the organized side events:
 - 1. Side event: From linear to circular: The roles of value chain partners in catalyzing and supporting sustainable peri-urban circular bio economy systems.

Tuesday 22 October

Organizers: Private Sector Mechanism, Solutions from the Land, Embassy of Kenya, Circular Bioeconomy Systems Institution, Global Dairy Platform, United States Mission to the RBAs, Syngenta, and Pinion.

In this side event, value chain partners offered examples of how circularity can be deployed to catalyze and support peri-urban intense farm-fishing-forestry systems and the production, transportation and delivery of their products. Speakers noted that trust relationships across the value chain are critical to scaling circular bioeconomy solutions and underscored the need to enhance sustainable production and consumption. It was also noted that properly designed enabling policies can scale the transition from a fossil economy to a bioeconomy.

2. Side Event: Uptake of the CFS policy on food security and nutrition (FSN) data – where do we stand?

Tuesday 22 October

Organizers: FAO, UNICEF, World Bank, International Agri-food network (Graham Mullier), Switzerland, Kenya

This side event took stock of the initiatives that are being planned and undertaken to implement the CFS policy recommendations on data in practice. During the event, speakers emphasized the critical role of high-quality data in addressing global food insecurity. Key initiatives included the creation of a new FSN statistical domain under the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), and efforts like the 50x2030 Initiative to close agricultural data gaps. It was noted that the private sector is already investing in innovative data collection methods to improve crop management and resource allocation.



3. **Side Event**: Strengthening women's agency in agriculture and food systems through the effective uptake of CFS policy products

Tuesday 22 October

Organizers: Germany (Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), Switzerland, Working Group on Global Food Security (AKWE), PSM (Tintswalo Makhubele - JI), CSIPM

This side event examined how the impact of CFS deliberations and policy outcomes can be further strengthened in light of the 20th anniversary of the Right to Food and discussed lessons learned and best practices while taking into account the content of the CFS Uptake Action Plan. In view of the upcoming UN Year of the Women Farmer in 2026 and the crucial role women play in the agriculture and food system and for its transformation, there was a special focus on the recently adopted CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (VG GEWE), exploring how women as central actors in addressing hunger and malnutrition, are also highly vulnerable to the persistent inequities and discrimination in global agriculture and food systems.

4. Side event: Translating the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition into action – Impactful collaborations with the Private Sector and Government

Wednesday 23 October

Organizers: FAO - Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division (PSU) and Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP); IFAD; IAFN (Robynne Anderson); Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM)

This side event examined current initiatives and outcomes and shared insights from different regions and entities on the private sector's crucial role in empowering women in agrifood systems. Speakers highlighted actions taken by the private sector in gender empowerment within food systems through the creation of economic opportunities, providing access to resources, improving supply chains, and fostering social impact. PSM speaker, Robynne Anderson spoke to the IAFN FAO SME Accelerator Programme and explained how mentors had guided mentees on their respective businesses. While only 50 mentees were selected in the first cohort of the programme, it was estimated that the benefits had impacted approximately 500,000 people.

5. Side event: "Just in time" or "just in case" food systems? Managing trade-offs and building resilience from local to global.

Thursday 24 October

Organizers: HLPE-FSN, GLOPAN, Sierra Leone, Brazil, Mexico, CSPIM, PSM (Nestlé, Chris Hogg - RA)

This event built on the CFS MYPoW theme Building Resilience in Food Systems and focused on how to boost resilience from production to supply chain management, explored how to diversify sources of inputs, production, markets, and actors, including supporting the creation of small and medium-sized companies, cooperatives, consortiums and other groups to maintain diversity in food systems.

6. **Side event:** Reducing inequalities in food systems through entrepreneurship and enterprise

Friday 25 October

Organizers: OCP; GDP; Nuffield International; Morocco; Indonesia

This event highlighted the need for a coordinated approach to address systemic inequalities in food systems, that are targeted towards the poorest, the most vulnerable and those most at risk of food insecurity and with participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people. Discussions demonstrated that entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprise act as the greater driver of



economic development in rural areas in ways that reduce inequalities and improves the food and nutrition security outcomes of rural people and the most vulnerable.

7. **Side Event (11:45 – 13:00):** Reducing Inequality in Food Systems by expanding market access for inputs, outputs, and services

Friday 25 October

Organizers: Mosaic; GDP; Nuffield International, Pinion; GDP -

This event noted that one of the greatest drivers of inequalities in food systems is a lack of market access for agricultural inputs, services and production outputs. Insufficient access to fertilizers, necessary crop control products, insufficient infrastructure and poor extension services affect the most vulnerable populations the most. Speakers emphasized that developing public-private partnerships and policies to address these critical issues that impact the livelihoods of the world's most marginalized and vulnerable communities is essential to reduce inequalities and advance the 2030 agenda.







Bringing together 145 guests, this year's High-Level Interactive Studio on Climate, Biodiversity, and the Right to Food & Decent Work provided an excellent opportunity for interaction and engagement between a wide range of stakeholders. The Thought Hubs at the High-Level Interactive Studio allowed for a successful exchange of ideas and views and contributed to the discussions in preparation for the upcoming High-Level Forum on Climate, Biodiversity and the Right to Food. We would like to thank our sponsors, Mosaic, Cargill and Syngenta for this wonderful opportunity and Vocato Consulting for sponsoring youth to attend.

Important News

- i. PSM has heard in many spaces that National Level Actions are key. From the Brazilian Minister to the Food Systems Summit work with National Conveners, the focus is very much on diversity at country level.
- ii. With regard to Brazil's initiative on a Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, the Minister advised that it was Brazil's intention to have the Alliance housed at the FAO, once launched.
- iii. The Food Systems Coordination Hub has advised that the draft Corporate Accountability Framework will be circulated in the next few weeks for consultations and feedback. The discussions at this stage are very difficult for the Private Sector and some members of the working group are proposing very difficult exclusion principles in relation to the Private Sector.
- iv. UN Deputy Secretary Amina Mohammed, launched a Convergence Initiative at COP28 to enable governments and stakeholders at the national level to strengthen synergetic action

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for food systems transformation, supporting the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. In this regard a <u>Side Event</u> was held on Monday, October 21, entitled "The Convergence Initiative – Converging Food systems and Climate Action for Better Food Security and a Sustainable Future". The event articulated the Convergence Initiative's framework as a tool for achieving food security and environmental safeguarding, and its roadmap toward COP29, COP30, and UNFSS+4.

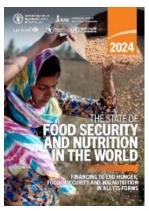
CFS Plenary

Plenary started this year with a presentation of the 2024 State of Food Security (SOFI) Report which noted that the reverse in progress and the persistently high levels of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in recent years have put the world off track to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Targets 2.1 and 2.2 – to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

The presentation of the SOFI report was followed by members states' responses alongside those of advisory groups, including the PSM. In its statement to the Plenary, PSM noted that the private sector acknowledged its vital role in advancing both food availability, accessibility, affordability, and nutritional outcomes. Business has and will continue to contribute to creating and advising on sustainable agrifood production practices, financial innovation and delivery of technological options that have potential to significantly address the rising challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition. The SOFI report for 2024 is available here.

A significant outcome of CFS52 was the endorsement of the Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition. In its statement in the plenary, PSM noted that the private sector plays a critical role in addressing inequalities across food systems by driving innovation, investing in sustainable practices, and creating inclusive opportunities. PSM emphasized its commitment to supporting diverse supply chains, advocating for policies that uplift marginalized communities, and promoting capacity building to ensure equitable access to resources and markets for all.

The PSM had the opportunity to deliver statements in the following sessions:



- Coordinated policy responses to the food crisis the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024
- Global Thematic Event on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food
- Strengthening the impact of CFS policy agreements
- CFS strategic direction toward 2030
- Addressing multiple dimensions of inequalities
- Promoting decent work in agriculture and Food Systems
- Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment
- CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2024-2027. Below is the agreed policy focus of the CFS until CFS56:



Access the full document here.



The PSM secretariat has prepared a brief survey to collect delegates' feedback on CFS experiences. Please take five minutes to fill it out, as your participation will help improve next year's event: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFS52Survey.

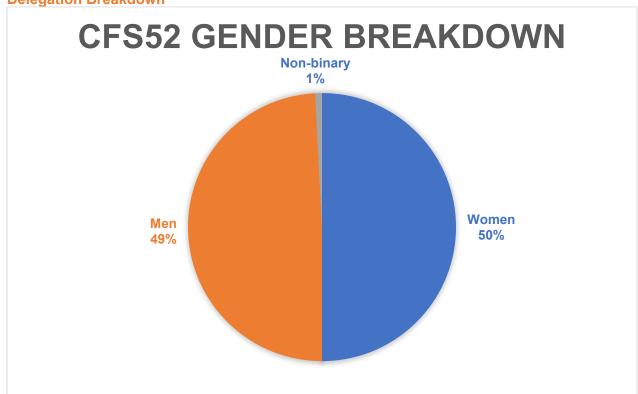
Best wishes,

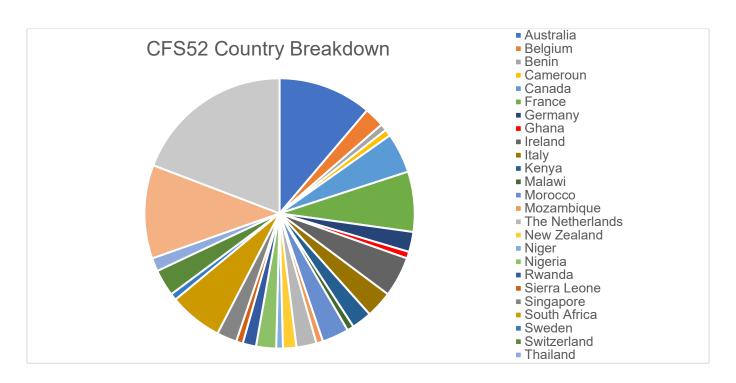
Robynne, Bibi, Brian, Francesca Romana, Omar, Sophie, Chloe, & Josiane

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The official CFS photo album is available on FAO's Flickr account here.

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