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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirty-first Session¹

26-28 October 2020

**Taking Stock of Status of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems
for Nutrition**

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

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I. Introduction

As recognized by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Summit 2019², there is an urgent need to accelerate action by all stakeholders at all levels to fulfil the vision and goals of the 2030 Agenda. According to the 2020 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report³, 690 million people are hungry (8.9 percent of the world's population – up by 10 million people in one year and by nearly 60 million in five years). If recent trends continue, the number of people affected by hunger will surpass 840 million by 2030.

While the majority of the world's undernourished – 381 million – are still found in Asia, more than 250 million live in Africa, where the number of undernourished people is growing faster than in any other region of the world. In 2019, more than nine out of ten stunted children lived in Africa, representing 40 percent of all stunted children in the world. The SOFI report also warns about overweight and obesity as a rising threat to the health of children and adults, compounding the challenges posed by widespread undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

¹ Rescheduled from 23-27 March in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

² Political Declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (A/HLPF/2019/L.1)

³ SOFI 2020 Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9692en/online/ca9692en.html>

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) will address the complex links between under-nutrition, obesity and environmental sustainability in our current food systems, and recommend policy convergence in the most important areas associated with food and health, including in pandemics. Partnering across borders and sectors, and with the private sector and civil society, is essential to such convergence and to effective outcomes.

II. Expected Outcomes

The CFS session will highlight the relevance of its global policy work and inclusive approach to advance food security and nutrition. The session will focus in particular on the country-level impact of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), adopted by the CFS in 2012, and the forthcoming VGFSyN expected to be endorsed at CFS 47 in February 2021. Participants will gain a clear understanding of the CFS, its core policy products and the need for multistakeholder, cross-sectoral and whole-of-government approaches to transform the global food system and advance food security and nutrition globally.

The CFS Chairperson will be joined by regional policy-practitioners and experts to address the ongoing work of the CFS. Specifically, they will address key aspects of the draft CFS VGFSyN with specific focus on its relevance to regional governments, the importance of cross-sectoral policy coordination, and “uptake” of the Guidelines by regional leaders once adopted at CFS 47.

By attending this CFS-organized special event, participants will be able to:

- identify the CFS, its roles, and the relevance of its products to the African region;
- understand how the CFS draft Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition can contribute to regional, national, and local food security strategies;
- recognize the urgency of collective action to effectively use CFS VGFSyN (and other major CFS products) to achieve SDG-2 targets.

	Moderator, Ms Jocelyn Brown Hall, Deputy Regional Representative, RAF
11.00-11.15 hours GMT/UTC	Mr QU Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
11.15-11.25 hours	Mr Thanawat Tiensin, CFS Chairperson
11.25-11.30 hours	H.E. Emma Kowa Jalloh, Sierra Leone, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources – Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force on the implementation of CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
11.30-11.35 hours	Representative of the CFS Civil Society Mechanism
11.35-11.40 hours	Perspective from the International Fund for Agricultural Development
11.40-11.45 hours	Perspective from Ms Margaret Munene, President, Palmhouse Dairies
11:45-12:00 hours	Questions and Interventions from Members

