
President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional window to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for IFAD's contribution to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

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Action: The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 15.

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President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional window to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for IFAD's contribution to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

I. Background and compliance with the IFAD Regular Grants Policy

1. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is a key priority for Member States. It is an inclusive and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders working to ensure food security and nutrition for all as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The platform brings together governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), United Nations agencies, the private sector and philanthropic foundations, and its policies and guidance build on scientific and evidence-based reports. The CFS has been receiving regular support from the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) since 2014; this grant will allow it to further advance with its mandate, and ensure that its constituencies continue to be engaged in the promotion of policy convergence and coherence on global food security and nutrition issues.
2. IFAD's support to and engagement in the CFS facilitates the development and strengthening of a wide range of partnerships and policies, and ultimately contributes to IFAD's own mandate, given the multi-stakeholder nature of the platform. By contributing to the CFS, IFAD can actively influence and provide technical expertise in key areas of work and CFS workstreams, positioning itself as a global leader in food security discussions and a key partner in the area of rural development. It also allows IFAD the opportunity to identify and provide innovative and viable policy solutions to challenges in the realm of smallholder agriculture and rural development. Through this engagement, IFAD can influence the global policy agenda by adopting and utilizing CFS policy products in its lending programme, in line with CFS guidance, recommendations and development outcomes.
3. The proposed programme is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Regular Grants Policy (2021),¹ specifically contributing to strategic objective 2,² the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016–2025, and the Twelfth and Thirteenth Replenishments of IFAD's Resources. The programme leverages the efforts of other partners, such as the RBAs, Member States, CSOs and the private sector, and provides the opportunity for IFAD to complement their work with its own expertise on smallholder farmers.
4. The recipient, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was identified through direct selection as the physical host of the CFS. The direct selection was approved by the Operational Strategy and Policy Guidance Committee on 20 November 2023.

II. The proposed programme

5. The overall goal of the programme is to contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular ending hunger and malnutrition, through a participatory and inclusive process of policy development for food security and nutrition.
6. The objective is for IFAD to leverage its engagement in the CFS to continue fostering international cooperation on issues related to food security and nutrition,

¹ See EB 2021/132/R3.

² Strategic objective 2: foster a more conducive policy and investment environment for smallholder agriculture and rural development, including at the regional and global level.

and to strengthen actions at the national and regional levels for inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation. Overall, from a financial and technical standpoint, the support to the CFS will ensure increased visibility of IFAD's work at the country level and its collaboration with the other RBAs.

7. IFAD's target group is made up of rural people living in poverty and experiencing food insecurity in developing countries. They are often the poorest and most vulnerable people: those most likely to have little access to assets and opportunities due to social exclusion and marginalization (e.g. women, young people, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and people living in fragile situations). Considering CFS's multi-stakeholder configuration and its mandate, this grant will have a positive impact on IFAD's target group as it will: support their participation in the development and uptake of policies through the CFS; facilitate the application of guidelines and policies through IFAD's programme of loans and grants; and ensure that the CFS 2024–2027 multi-year programme of work (MYPoW) includes thematic areas of relevance to them.
8. The programme will be implemented over two years. The components and areas of CFS's work that will be supported are as follows:
 - (i) Thematic workstreams: Contribute to the recognition of IFAD's work in rural development through the provision of technical expertise in areas of relevance to IFAD's mandate.
 - (ii) CFS plenary: Enhanced visibility among key stakeholders including Member States, CSOs, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector.
 - (iii) CFS Bureau and Advisory Group: Provide IFAD with the opportunity to steer the strategic direction of the CFS and promote rural transformation.
 - (iv) CFS Secretariat: IFAD supports the Secretariat's functioning and work.
9. In order to achieve the above, IFAD will leverage lessons learned from the implementation of previous grants provided in support of the CFS Secretariat. Such lessons and related IFAD achievements will be shared annually within the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group's reporting exercise in which IFAD and the other United Nations agencies and stakeholders are invited to participate.

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

10. The programme is expected to have the following outcomes/outputs:
 - (i) Support the implementation of the CFS programme of work as a way to improve IFAD's advocacy and policy impact in areas where it has a comparative advantage, expertise and knowledge;
 - (ii) Ensure political recognition of IFAD's contributions to current and future CFS workstreams of relevance to IFAD's mandate and its recommendations at the CFS plenaries;
 - (iii) Adoption of key policy products that can be utilized in, and add value to, IFAD's operations; and
 - (iv) Enhance IFAD's visibility among CFS stakeholders.

IV. Implementation arrangements

11. The grant recipient, FAO, will sign a contribution agreement with IFAD for project implementation. The recipient will act as the sole counterpart to IFAD, bearing all contractual and operational liabilities as defined in the contribution agreement. The project manager will be IFAD's primary point of contact for all coordination, planning and administration matters.
12. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audits.

V. Indicative programme costs and financing

13. IFAD's total contribution for the two-year period is US\$1,000,000. In addition to the cash contribution and, subject to the availability of resources and its internal policies, IFAD will endeavour to second a P-5 level staff member to the CFS Secretariat as "staff on loan", in line with its Human Resources Policy, the Staff Rules and Human Resources Implementing Procedures, as amended from time to time. The assignment period is expected to be two years and is aimed at aligning with the agreed contribution of US\$675,000/year to be provided by each RBA.
14. The World Food Programme (WFP) and FAO will each contribute US\$1,350,000 in cash, which will also cover a staff secondment at the P-5 level in FAO, while in WFP it covers a P-5 level secondment plus support for a P-3/P-4 level contract.

Table 1
Costs by component and financier³
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>FAO cofinancing (cash/in-kind)</i>	<i>WFP cofinancing (cash/in-kind)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. CFS plenary: Event management costs, translation and interpretation	280 000			
2. Communication and outreach	120 000			
3. Implementation of MYPoW, including: platform, policy convergence and coherence, uptake	600 000			
Total	1 000 000⁴	1 350 000	1 350 000	3 700 000

VI. Recommendation

15. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, IFAD's contribution to the Committee on World Food Security, shall provide a grant of one million United States dollars (US\$1,000,000) to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for a two-year project upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Alvaro Lario
 President

³ The grant recipient, FAO, will sign a contribution agreement with IFAD for project implementation, and will not be bound to provide any detailed reporting on expenditures as specified in the contribution agreement.

⁴ Please refer to paragraph 13 for the additional potential in-kind contribution that IFAD will endeavour to provide.

Results-based logical framework⁵

	Objectives hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	Contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, in particular ending hunger and malnutrition, through a participatory and inclusive process of policy development for food security and nutrition.	Number of stakeholders engaged in policy development processes	- Reports on stakeholder participation in CFS plenaries, Advisory Group and Bureau meetings and workstream discussions/negotiations	- Stakeholders high and continued interest in being engaged in the development of policy products related to food systems and nutrition. - Member States and International Development Agencies willingness to promote the use and implement CFS policy products on the ground
Objectives	IFAD to leverage its engagement in the CFS to continue fostering international cooperation on issues related to food security and nutrition, and to strengthen actions at national/regional levels for inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation.	Policies are adopted and implemented at regional and national levels also through IFAD Programme of Loans and Grants	- Publications of adopted policies - Report from IFAD country teams on use of CFS policy products on the ground	High commitment and sense of ownership from relevant international institutions, as well as other CFS stakeholders, to engage in the process.
Outcomes/ outputs	1. Support the CFS MYPoW workstreams as a way to improve IFAD's advocacy and policy impact in areas where the Fund has a comparative advantage, expertise/knowledge	Number of workstreams supported	IFAD technical staff participation to CFS workstreams	Commitment and participation of target groups and effective collaboration with strategic partners.
	2. Political recognition of IFAD's contributions to current and future CFS workstreams as may be relevant to IFAD's mandate and its recommendations at the CFS Plenaries.	- Number of policies developed with IFAD's support - Number of plenaries session in which IFAD's support is recognized	- Participation of IFAD technical staff in the preparation of policies - Reports post CFS plenaries	Buy-in from IFAD leadership to showcase IFAD's value added to the CFS processes
	3. Adoption of key policy products that can be utilized in, and add value to, IFAD's operations.	Number of policy products adopted which included IFAD's technical contribution and that are relevant for IFAD's operations	- Reports from IFAD regional/national staff on use of CFS policy products - Reports post negotiations of policy products - Tracking of participation of IFAD technical staff in policy products development and negotiations	Member States, government counterparts, CSOs, donors, IFIs, and agriculture organizations have time to participate in the development of policy products and have the buy-in to support and promote implementation of adopted CFS policy products
	4. Enhance IFAD's visibility amongst CFS stakeholders	- Number of events led by IFAD during CFS plenaries	- Reports post CFS plenaries - Partnership/collaboration opportunities established between IFAD and CFS stakeholders	Buy-in from IFAD leadership to showcase IFAD's value added to the CFS processes

⁵ Note to the reader: the grant recipient, FAO, will sign a contribution agreement with IFAD for project implementation, and will not be bound to provide any detailed reporting on the logframe indicators.

	Objectives hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
		- Number of events with IFAD's presence as related to the CFS/in CFS plenaries		
Key activities by component	1) Support to the thematic workstreams and technical task teams for the development of policy products, contributing to the recognition of IFAD's work in rural development.	Number of workstreams supported by IFAD technical staff	Reports on workstream discussions participation	Commitment by IFAD staff to provide technical support in key workstreams of relevance for IFAD's mandate
	2) Support to the CFS Plenary to enhanced the visibility of relevant food security and nutrition issues amongst key stakeholders including Member State, CSOs, indigenous peoples and the private sector.	- Type of support provided to the CFS Plenary - Number of events organized/co-organized by IFAD during the CFS Plenary	- IFAD flash report following CFS Plenaries - CFS Plenaries reports	Commitment by IFAD staff and leadership to contribute to CFS Plenaries
	3) Support to define the strategic direction of the CFS through its Bureau & Advisory Group for the promotion of rural transformation.	Participation to the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings	Reports from the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings	Commitment by IFAD staff and leadership to contribute to the strategic direction of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group
	4) IFAD support to the functioning of the CFS Secretariat.	Technical and financial contribution provided to the CFS Secretariat	Financial and Narrative reports from the CFS Secretariat as related to the grant contribution	Commitment by IFAD leadership and Member states to continue to provide financial contribution to the CFS secretariat