

## **The Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition<sup>1</sup>**

### **Introduction**

The Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)<sup>2</sup> was adopted in its first version by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at its 39<sup>th</sup> session in October 2012. It aims “to provide an overarching framework and a single reference document with practical guidance on core recommendations for food security and nutrition strategies, policies and actions validated by the wide ownership, participation and consultation afforded by the CFS”.<sup>3</sup> Many of the members of the GNRTFN as well as other social movements and civil society groups participated in the elaboration of the framework.

### **Main Features**

The GSF presents an important achievement from the perspective of civil society. While not perfect, the framework reflects many of the core demands of social movements and CSOs.

It is the first global framework based on government consensus that strongly recalls the role of human rights, and specifically the right to adequate food and nutrition (RtAFN), in policies related to food and nutrition security. The GSF emphasises the need for policy coherence across sectors which impact on the right to adequate food and nutrition and requires that public policies are developed and implemented in line with the right to adequate food and nutrition.

Another major achievement is that the GSF recognizes and puts emphasis on the central role of small-scale food producers, such as peasants, food and agricultural workers, fisherfolk, women, youth, indigenous people, landless, and pastoralists, as key actors in achieving food security and nutrition for all.

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<sup>1</sup> This factsheet has been elaborated on the basis of a manual published by CIDSE, IUF, LVC and FIAN International (2013):

*Using the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition to Promote and Defend the People’s Right to Adequate Food: A Manual for Civil Society Organisations*, available at <http://www.viacampesina.org/dl/click.php?id=51>

<sup>2</sup> The last revision of the framework took place in 2014, see CFS (2014), *Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)*, Third Version, available at [www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1314/GSF/GSF\\_Version\\_3\\_EN.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1314/GSF/GSF_Version_3_EN.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## **Using the Framework**

Ensuring that the framework reflects important demands of social movements and CSOs struggling for the realization of the RtAFN was only the first step. Now the framework needs to be implemented at the various levels. While the implementation corresponds primarily to States, there is an important role to be played by social movements and CSOs as well. They can use the framework to advance their struggles by raising awareness on its key elements and relating their own demands to these. Quotes from the GSF can, for example, be used in advocacy work to recall what States have agreed on in international fora and hold them accountable to their commitments.

The GSF moreover serves as a tool for monitoring public policies, legislations and other measures which have an impact on the RtAFN, ensuring that these are coherent with the consensus expressed in the GSF and States' obligations under international human rights law.<sup>4</sup>

## **Periodic Review Process**

The Global Strategic Framework is a living document that is regularly updated to incorporate new outcomes and decisions of the CFS. A comprehensive review process of the document is scheduled to take place from 2015 to 2017.<sup>5</sup>

Participating in the review process, which is open to input from civil society members of the CFS, is not only an important opportunity for bringing up the issues that have not yet been (adequately) reflected in the GSF, such as nutrition and food sovereignty, but also a good exercise for social movements and CSOs to familiarise themselves with the framework and subsequently use it to advance policies and actions at the (sub-) national level.

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<sup>4</sup> Examples of such coherence check are provided in the CSO manual (footnote 1), pp. 33-35.

<sup>5</sup> See [http://www.csm4cfs.org/files/News/209/cfs\\_bur\\_ag\\_2015\\_02\\_02\\_07\\_periodic\\_updating\\_of\\_gsf\\_final.pdf](http://www.csm4cfs.org/files/News/209/cfs_bur_ag_2015_02_02_07_periodic_updating_of_gsf_final.pdf)