

# FOOD POLICY UPDATE

## FROM ROME

ISSUE 2  
FEBRUARY 2011

**Food Policy Updates from Rome** aims to provide an up-to-date information on the global food governance system and strategic activities of ActionAid.

**Alberta Guerra**  
Food Policy Officer  
Alberta.Guerra@actionaid.org  
Skype: albertaguerra  
Tel: +39 393 9848224

**Youjin Brigitte Chung**  
Right to Food Team  
Communications Assistant  
Youjin.Chung@actionaid.org  
Skype: aai\_youjin  
Tel: +44 (0)20 3122 0740

[www.ifsn-actionaid.net](http://www.ifsn-actionaid.net)  
[www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)



This project is  
funded by the EU

**actionaid**

## The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

### 1. Governance

The selection process for appointing the 40 members of the Coordination Committee (CC) of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) of the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is still ongoing. In addition to **Chris Leather** and **Natalia Landivar** as members of the NGO constituency, **Stineke Oenema**, Chair of the CONCORD European Food Security Working Group (EFSG), was elected last month to represent Western European civil society organizations in the CC. Stineke will be assisted by the members and the secretariat of the Concord EFSG and by various civil society networks.

The Advisory Group (AG) has agreed on the need to finalise the CC members by 10 February in order for it to be considered legitimate and to proceed with the nomination of the four civil society AG members by 28 February. Depending on the financial resources available, the first meeting of the CC will be held at the end of February.

#### Action Point:

AA food rights staff should participate in the selection process and actively engage with appointed members.

### 2. Open Electronic Consultations

#### Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)

In response to the call for contributions on the Global Strategic Framework, ActionAid and IFSN submitted its contribution on 31 January. For those interested, the document can be found on hive:

- [AA Contribution to the GSF \(DOC, 226KB\)](#)

#### HLPE Studies on Price Volatility and on Land Tenure and International Investments in Agriculture

The Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) is holding two open electronic consultations on price volatility and on land tenure and international investments in agriculture until 6 February. These consultations are aimed at gathering views and comments from a wide range of stakeholders so as to facilitate and inform the policy decision-making of CFS members. On the basis of these consultations, the Terms of Reference for the HLPE Project Team (the team of experts that will prepare the study and policy recommendations) will be finalised. The two studies will be presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the CFS.

Visit HLPE's newly launched [website](#).

ActionAid has launched a call for comments on these two studies, and the electronic consultation proposals can be found on [hive](#):

- [Cover Message on the Electronic Open Consultation for the HLPE \(PDF, 27.3 KB\)](#)
- [Proposed scope of study on price volatility \(PDF, 92.2 KB\)](#)
- [Proposed scope of study on land tenure and international investments \(PDF, 52.6 KB\)](#)

### 3. Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources (VGs)

Paul Munro-Faure, FAO lead on the Voluntary Guidelines, gave a presentation on the progress of the VGs and a roadmap for the way forward. He presented the results from the 10 Regional Consultations and 5 separate consultations with civil society and private sector held in 2010. A summary of outcomes from all consultations can be found on the [VG Section of the FAO website](#). Gregory Myers, from USAID and chair of open-ended Working Group on the VGs, has also expressed his openness to civil society consultations and interested in hearing all concerns on issues pertaining to the governance of natural resources. He is interested in the general principles of the VGs that can be applied globally, whilst designing a system that recognizes diversity.

The following is a proposed timeline for the development of the VGs:

1 Dec – 23 Mar '11	Secretariat will put together a Zero Draft
15 April	A public reading will be held, presenting the Zero Draft
18 April – 18 May	Engage feedback through an E-Consultation
19- 30 May	Based on Feedback, will produce Draft I
1 June	Submit Draft I to the CFS open-ended Working Group
2 June – 19 July	Conduct a regional and stakeholder review
19 – 23 July	CFS led plenary and finalization of the VGs
29 July	Submission of final draft for 37th Session of the CFS

#### Action Point:

- All concerns on land tenure or any of the above processes should be sent to Alberta so she can duly address them in the CFS
- Be prepared to actively participate in the e-consultation in April/May, as well as the regional stakeholder review in June/ July

### 4. Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) Principles

The voluntary RAI principles have been developed by the FAO, IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), World Bank and UNCTAD (UN Conference on Trade and Development). They are meant to help governments develop rules and regulations, and to be used as a reference for international investment contracts and corporate social responsibility. Considering the inadequate consultation completed in the drafting of the 7 RAI principles, Hugo Verbist, Vice Chair of the CFS, hopes to organize a process of consultation and establish a system whereby all stakeholders are in agreement.

The following is a timeline for the consultation process, proposed by the FAO:

2 March 2011	Private Sector Consultation
Spring/Summer	Latin America and Caribbean Regional Consultations
Ongoing	NGOs, civil society (already working with the IPC and ILC) Electronic Consultation

---

## UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

### 1. Focus on Women Farmers

Women will be the focus of FAO's work in 2011. Indeed, the next edition of the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), to be launched in March, and the upcoming FAO Conference in June will be devoted to the vital role of women in agriculture and rural development. ActionAid is coordinating with the ad hoc group of INGOs in liaison status with FAO for joint activities at the June Conference. In addition, AA will receive an invitation from WOCAN to collaborate on a joint side event with Oxfam International. With the election of FAO's new Director General, many agricultural ministers are expected to attend the conference; this will hopefully lead to a heightened media coverage on policy debates around women and agriculture. In addition, FAO is likely to launch several symbolic manifestations for the International Women's Day on 8 March, and there may be a strong gender component to the World Food Day events on 16 October.

### 2. Global Food Price Volatility

In December, it was announced that the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI)—a measure of the monthly change in international food prices of a basket of food commodities—hit an all-time high since June 2008. At the same time, FAO released the following two important publications on food prices, which are available on [hive](#):

- [Policy Brief No. 12- Price Volatility in Agricultural Markets \(PDF, 558 KB\)](#)
- [Guide for Policy and Programmatic Actions at Country Level to Address High Food Prices \(PDF, 157 KB\)](#)

---

## International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

### 1. Conference on “New Direction for Smallholder Agriculture”

IFAD organised an international conference on 24-25<sup>th</sup> January in Rome to examine the gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities smallholder farmers face in the future. While the lion's share of the conference was focused on how to make smallholder farmers more productive and how to link them to the market, there was very little debate on identifying the most suitable agricultural model for smallholders. Moreover, civil society participation was fairly limited due to the low media exposure and public awareness of the conference. All materials, presentations and dossiers are available on the [IFAD website](#).

### 2. Land Portal

The new Land Portal is expected to be launched at the end of March. Once launched, it will be a useful platform for exchanging latest information on land related issues, monitoring trends and identifying information gaps to promote effective and sustainable land governance.

## United Nations High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (UN HLTF)

The UN HLTF released the final Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA), which is intended to be a common policy framework to increase the coherence and coordination between UN and its sister agencies on food, agriculture and nutrition. ActionAid participated in influencing its revision and pushed for a stronger focus on food rights, women's rights and land rights, which have found more space in this revised version. This document will be an important reference for all UN resident commissioners as it can be used as an advocacy tool to keep governments accountable. The document is available on hive:

- [UN HLTF Updated CFA \(PDF, 891 KB\)](#)

---

## CONCORD European Food Security Group (EFSG), Brussels

### 1. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reform

The EFSG sent its position paper on CAP, as a response to the EU consultation which ended on 25 January. The document is available on hive:

- [The future of the European CAP and development - EFSG Contribution \(PDF, 128 KB\)](#)

### 2. Consultation on the EU Green Paper on Development Policy

ActionAid and IFSN supported EFSG's contribution to the consultation on the European Commission Green Paper, "Development Policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development – increasing the impact of EU development Cooperation", which focused on issues relating to food security, African agriculture and nutrition. This contribution was developed into a more comprehensive document prepared by AA EU office. For more information on this, please contact [Alberta](#).

### 3. Monitoring of EU Policy Framework

Gabrielle Zimmer, Member of the European Parliament, has presented her draft report on the EU Policy Framework for Food Security on 25 January to the Development Committee. The working document is available on hive:

- [Working Document on an EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges \(PDF, 213 KB\)](#)
- [Communication from the EC to the Council and the European Parliament - EU Policy Framework for Food Security \(PDF, 52.4 KB\)](#)

---

## European Union (EU)

The 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU (African, Caribbean, Pacific – European Union) Joint Parliamentary Assembly was held in Kinshasa in December 2010. The plenary adopted a resolution on food security that recognizes the right to food as an inalienable and universal human right. The resolution called for a concrete action to tackle financial speculation in grain and food, to guarantee seeds for all producers, and to look at the possible detrimental effects of subsidies for agrofuel crops. The document is available on hive:

- [ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Resolution on Food Security](#)

## Upcoming Events

### FEBRUARY

- **IFPRI Conference: Leveraging agriculture for improving nutrition and health**  
10-12 February, New Delhi, India
- **World Social Forum**  
6-11 February, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal
  - **Workshop and Positive Agenda report launch**, 7th, 12.30-15.30
  - **Workshop—What Agriculture Model for Africa’s Future? CAADP and Smallholder Farming: Opportunities for Africa**, 7th, 12.30-15.30

### APRIL

- **International Academic Conference on ‘Global Land Grabbing’ - Co-organised and hosted by the Future Agricultures Consortium**  
6-8 April, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, Brighton, UK
- **141<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council**  
11-15 April, FAO, Rome, Italy

### MAY

- **International Conference on Climate Change, Agri-Food, Fisheries, and Ecosystems (ICCAFF): “Reinventing Research, Innovation, and Policy Agendas for an Environmentally and Socially-Balanced Growth”**  
19-21 May, Hotel Palais des Roses, Agadir, Morocco

### JUNE

- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations—Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (ASEAN—SEAFDEC) Conference: “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”**  
13-17 June, Sofitel Centara Grand Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
- **37<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference**  
25 June–2 July, FAO, Rome, Italy



This project is funded by the EU

