

January 2024

## CFS Call for written inputs - Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition

### Contribution of the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism (PFM)

Dear CFS Secretariat,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide inputs highlighting our view on priority issues to be addressed during the CFS policy convergence process on “Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition”.

1. **Systemic drivers of inequality:** inequalities are a central concern for the philanthropic community, as foundations both result from and aim to address these disparities. To effectively eradicate inequalities, it is crucial to delve into the deep, systemic drivers influencing food security outcomes.
2. **Power asymmetries and structural inequities:** we appreciate the CFS's commitment to examining power asymmetries and structural inequities. This includes a critical examination of intersectional dimensions such as gender, education, ethnicity, indigeneity, rural/urban locations, and socio-economic status.
3. **Data collection and comparative analysis:** we recommend setting a clear agenda on data collection in inequalities. Additionally, we suggest a comparative exploration of how different food systems transformation pathways impact inequalities. Besides the recent HLPE Report on Inequalities, the CFS could build on other policy documents that touch upon the topic of inequalities, for example, the policy recommendations on agroecology and other innovative approaches, which helps to consolidate understanding of issues such as fairness and participation.
4. **Social protection and income inequalities:** as a policy priority area, we urge the CFS to further explore the role of social protection and social insurance mechanisms in addressing income inequalities across different regions, with significant impacts on food security and nutrition (FSN).
5. **Participatory decision-making:** emphasizing a strong focus on participatory, inclusive, and democratic decision-making in food governance is essential. Inequalities in food system outcomes often mirror political system inequalities, making the inclusion of marginalized groups in policy design and implementation a powerful instrument in addressing the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

6. **Challenging misconceptions:** it is vital for the CFS to persist in challenging the misconception that inequality drives progress. Disproving this notion is crucial in addressing the social, economic, and environmental costs linked to poorer food security and nutrition.
7. **The role of the Philanthropic sector:** the philanthropic sector, through the PFM and global discussions, is committed to exploring ways to catalyze investments in support of food system transformations that lead to more equal societies. We anticipate contributing valuable lessons from these discussions to the ongoing policy convergence process.

We thank again for the opportunity to provide our input on priority issues regarding this workstream and we remain at your disposal for any further clarification.

Yours sincerely,

The Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism