

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

DATE: December, 2023

SUMMARY:

PFM Annual Report 2023:

- Describes the main steps in the institutional organization of the PFM;
- Describes PFM's engagement with the CFS working program in 2023 across four main topics (data, MyPOW, gender, inequalities) and during the CFS51 Plenary;
- Presents its next steps: i) consolidating the PFM and, in parallel, ii) engage with CFS' new MYPoW and across its three functions: uptake, platform and policy, iii) engage with the CFS ecosystem.

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1. Institutional Organization of the PFM

1.1 PFM's design and organizing principles

In 2023, one of PFM's focus has been on continuing to build and define the structure of the PFM, including addressing comments, inputs, and suggestions collected from CFS constituencies in the previous months. In March 2023, the PFM Lead Coordination for 2023 (Global Alliance for the Future of Food) met in presence with CFS Chair and Secretariat in Rome, to discuss possible modalities and structures for the PFM.

A proposal for modalities for a philanthropic foundations mechanism for relations with CFS was developed and shared with the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group in September 2023. The document defines a) the role and functions of the PFM, b) its organizing principles, c) its governance and structure, d) its meetings, e) its communications, and f) its accountability and evaluation criteria. The document was included as part of the official list of documents of the CFS51 Plenary, and the PFM had the opportunity to present it in the Plenary under item XI. OTHER MATTERS of CFS51 Agenda.

Since the membership to the PFM is open to interested foundations that do not have commercial interests in their giving, throughout the year PFM's member began internal discussions on basic principles and criteria to attract other foundations, and on eligibility protocols (e.g. based on the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems). These will be further developed, defined and disclosed on PFM's website in 2024.

After an open hiring process, in May 2023 Ludovica Donati (ludodonati@gmail.com) was selected for the role Liaison Advisor for the PFM, supporting its presence in Rome by complementing the presence of BMGF's focal point, Fabrizio Moscatelli. The PFM focal point assists the three philanthropic members in coordinating their activities, facilitates inputs to negotiations, and engages interested philanthropic foundations in the work of the CFS. Since May 2023 she participated regularly at the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, the policy convergence process of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition; the CFS MYPoW open meetings; the launch of the HLPE-FSN report on "Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition"; to the CFS 51 Plenary Session and reconvening; and in the CFS Thematic Discussion on Reducing Inequalities.

During the year 2023, under the lead of the GA (Lead Coordination of the year), two on-line meetings and one in-presence workshop were held among the Philanthropic Foundations, including one during the annual CFS Plenary¹. These meetings were essential for exchanging information, and identifying priorities and common positions for philanthropic foundations engagement in the upcoming MYPoW 2024-2027 (see next steps section).

¹On-line meetings on January 27 and July 5, 2023; in presence workshop on October 23, 2023.

1.2 PFM's communication

As some members requested more explicit transparency, safeguards and accountability mechanisms to be set up by the PFM, a website (<https://pfm-cfs.org>) was developed and an institutional email was created (cfs.pfm@gmail.com) to facilitate and encourage transparency and accountability of PFM actions. The website contains a specific section ([participant page](#)) in which all PFM's contributions to the CFS are uploaded, including statements,

reports, information on side-events, contact details, etc.
In 2023 PFM also started to work on the definition of its branding which will be finalized and shared publicly in 2024.

2. PFM's engagement with CFS working programme

During the year 2023 the PFM has i) actively participated in the Advisory Group, ii) has been engaging with CFS' working program (particularly the discussions related to the new MYPoW, and the HLPE report on inequalities) and participated to two CFS policy negotiation processes (data and gender streams), iii) actively participated to the CFS51 Plenary and reconvening and iv) has been exploring how to strengthen the connection between the Philanthropic foundations' networks with the work of the CFS, both in terms of bringing inputs from the wider philanthropic community, and of disseminating and discussing CFS products and processes within these networks.

Bureau and Advisory Group

- PFM, represented by its lead coordinator for 2023 (Matheus Alves Zanella, GA), BMGF's focal point and its Liaison Advisor actively participated in the meetings of the B&AG. Furthermore, in May 2023 it shared with the Secretariat its [CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise 2022 \(p.41\)](#).
- During the [B&AG meeting](#) held on the 27th of July 2023, PFM had the opportunity to update the other members on [its developments](#) including the launch of its [website](#).

Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition

- PFM contributed with [its comments](#) to the HLPE-FSN report on "Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition" in 2022 and early 2023 and followed its launch in June 2023.
- PFM delivered a [statement](#) during CFS51.

CFS Policy Recommendations on Data

- PFM, represented by BMGF's focal point and its Liaison Advisor, followed the policy convergence process.
- PFM delivered a [statement](#) during CFS51.

CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality

- PFM, represented by its lead coordinator of 2023 (Matheus Alves Zanella, GA), BMGF's focal point and its Liaison Advisor followed the policy convergence process on gender without releasing any comment or statement.

Multi-Year Programme of Work 2024-2027

- PFM contributed with a written [feedback](#) in the preparatory work for the new MYPoW and attended the meetings related to it throughout 2022 and 2023.
- PFM delivered a [statement](#) during CFS51.

PFM activities during CFS51

PFM's main activity at CFS51 was to inform the Plenary (see annex 1) about its [Modalities for a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for relations with the CFS](#) as foreseen in CFS51 [Agenda](#) under item XI. OTHER MATTERS.

Furthermore, as showcased in annex 1, PFM intervened with additional statements during other four agenda items of the plenary, namely:

- IV. Global Interlinkages dialogues (a statement was prepared and shared with the Secretariat but could not be delivered because of time limits);
- VI. Leveraging the use of data for driving FSN policy;
- VII. CFS strategic direction toward 2030 (MYPoW) and;
- VIII. Addressing multiple dimensions on inequalities.

Side events

PFM did not organize any side events during CFS51.

3. PFM Contributions to the HLPE-FSN process

Throughout the year, PFM has been actively following the work of the [High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition](#).

In January 2023 it submitted a [joint contribution](#) on the HLPE V0 Draft “Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition”.

Regarding the e-consultation on the scope of the “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation” report, PFM did not share any feedback.

4. Next steps

The main tasks ahead for the PFM are: i) the consolidation of the governance for philanthropic engagement (including eligibility criteria for other members); ii) the development of a branding for the PFM (logo, font, colors); iii) a proactive engagement of the PFM and its members with the ecosystem of the CFS and a iv) direct engagement of the PFM and its members within the CFS' new [MYPoW](#) (with a particular focus on the Inequalities and Urban and Peri-Urban workstreams and the Uptake function):

- I. In 2023 the PFM was approached by a few philanthropic organizations that expressed a potential interest in its activities in relationship with the CFS. The membership to the PFM is open to other philanthropic foundations that do not have any commercial interest in their giving. Some additional elements related to the PFM's governance and its eligibility criteria to attract new members will be defined and disclosed on the PFM's website.
- II. PFM will develop an outreach strategy to actively communicate its constitution to networks of funders and private philanthropic organizations that might have an interest to join the mechanism.
- III. PFM's branding in terms of logo, font and colors is being developed and will be used for all its external communications (including statements).

- IV. PFM and its members will be proactively involved within the ecosystem of the CFS and work towards supporting the work of other constituencies.
- V. Regarding PFM's engagement with the CFS 2027-2027 MYPoW, the Philanthropic foundations are consulting their networks on how to contribute to the upcoming Inequalities and Urban and Peri-Urban Food System debates (possibly through open consultations with their networks before and during the policy convergence processes and/or through a series of webinars to amplify the work of the HLPE-FSN). Furthermore, PFM intends to explore how to position ongoing discussions by the philanthropic community on investing in food system transformation with the initiative of the CFS in strengthening coordinated policy responses to the global food crisis (global interlinkages dialogues and uptake function). Finally, it is starting to explore how the Philanthropic Foundations could support the CFS Chair in connecting CFS with other global issues policy processes.

Annex 1 - PFM's statements

IV. Global Interlinkages dialogues

MESSAGE

General bullet points:

- Thank you Chair for giving us the floor. The Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism is very pleased to take the floor as a group, as we are organizing ourselves to coordinate the private philanthropic sector's engagement with the critical work of the Committee on World Food Security
- On behalf of the Mechanism, I'd like to express that we welcome the CFS' efforts to enhance its engagement with other UN processes that influence food security and nutrition. There is a pressing need for better coordination among these processes, and the CFS should continue to lead global discussions on food governance.
- The philanthropic sector is actively participating in the SDG Agenda and is showing increased interest in supporting civil society engagement in discussions at the interaction between food systems with climate and with biodiversity.

And on behalf of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food and the Agroecology Fund - two of our members - we also would like to express the following

- At this COP28, the philanthropic sector has set several objectives: (a) to reiterate the close links between food systems and fossil fuels; (b) to showcase the necessity of disentangling food systems from fossil fuels on a global scale; (c) to catalyze momentum for the transformation of food systems within the climate and energy community; and (d) to rally actors behind the vision of comprehensive food systems transformation.
- In the context of climate discussions, the philanthropic sector is developing a shared vision and an action plan to accelerate the shift towards sustainable and equitable food systems. Our ultimate goal is to deliver a roadmap by COP28 that identifies the financing required, addresses barriers, and builds confidence among investors to make ambitious investments in this transition. Post-COP28, we intend to further accelerate this transformation and translate our vision into practical solutions that can be implemented on the ground.
- We also praised that the new Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in the last COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, recognizes agroecological approaches as contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of food systems, simultaneously tackling the challenges of food security and biodiversity conservation.
- Together with a diverse constellation of partners, we were deeply involved in ensuring that agroecology is not only recognized as part of a GBF Target but is also considered as a relevant approach to multiple targets, in line with what the CFS policy recommendations on agroecology and other innovative approaches stresses.

VI. Leveraging the use of data for driving FSN policy

- Following the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework, we initiated collaborations with on-ground partners to support the incorporation of a food systems approach into the implementation of National Biodiversity Action Plans. We aim to assist national decision makers with guidance for the successful implementation of their NBSAPs, leveraging agroecology and agricultural biodiversity, and fostering convergence with other approaches. This will be achieved through a combination of forging insights, convening, and inciting action.

MESSAGE

Thank you, Chair,

[I'm taking the floor as Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism. In the session on Global Interlinkages, we did not have the chance of delivering our statement in the Plenary. So I would just like to inform you that our statements are being delivered to the Secretariat and are being uploaded on our website: pfm-cfs.org].

We would like to take note of Anthony's leadership as Chair of the Open Ended Working Group and Marteen's support as lead of the Friends' group. We would also like to thank the Bureau, the Advisory Group and the Secretariat. Navigating the Data workstream was not an easy task but with the help and collaboration of the CFS community we were able to negotiate, and hopefully soon, will endorse a significant policy recommendation document.

As the High-Level Panel of Experts report notes:

- 92 countries have not conducted an agricultural census in the last ten years, 52 of which have not done so in the last 20 years.
- 10 countries have no agricultural census on record at all.
- 96 percent of countries do not have sufficient data to compute indicators for the productivity and income of smallholders, food loss, waste and land rights.

High-quality, timely and relevant Food Security and Nutrition statistics are key to informing local, national and global actions that promote food security and better nutrition. These statistics also need to be treated as a public good, "open by default," as recently endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission.

Chair, and CFS stakeholders, after endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations, our attention should now shift to the adoption and implementation of these recommendations. Therefore, we call on donors, country partners to consider addressing the investment gap. We would welcome a session at CFS52 on the progress made towards implementation of the data gap.

Not only must we invest more, but we must also coordinate and align our work. We should build on existing initiatives, such as 50x2030 and the Global Strategy for Rural and Agricultural Statistics, that support the capacity of national data and statistics systems and align data investments with priorities

identified in national FSN policy and planning processes. This will reduce fragmentation and duplication of their support at the country level and increase the effectiveness of their investments.

We look forward to working across the CFS community to ensure adoption and implementation of these findings. Chair, we would like to request that the CFS articulate how it will hold stakeholders to account for adoptions of these recommendations as a next step. We would be pleased to collaborate with others to make this a reality.

Finally, we would like to propose, for consideration in a future MYPoW, that the CFS develop a means to inform discussions on the future of the SDG indicators. This would be one way to take the capacity built under this workstream further.

Thank you, Chair, for your leadership in seeing this work through your term.

VII. CFS strategic direction toward 2030 (MYPoW)

MESSAGE

Dear Chair, thank you for giving us the floor. I am Ludovica Donati, the focal point for the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism. This statement is given on the behalf of the Mechanism, it has been sent for the interpretation team and it will be available in our website:

- We congratulate this Committee and we welcome the ambition of this MYPoW and the fact that CFS policy convergence will be focused on one topic per year, opening space for strengthening the platform and uptake functions of this Committee. Through consultations we held with Foundations to contribute to this MYPoW, many have suggested exploring different formats for these discussions
- We welcome and expect with good expectations the discussions on responsible investments and financing for Food Security and Nutrition, building on previous work of the CFS. Within this, several topics are connected: i) redirecting public investments (incentives and subsidies), ii) investing in agroecological transformation, iii) environmental and social accounting in investments; iv) and strengthening an ecosystem of funders that finance food system transformations from public, private, grassroots and blended finance approaches
- The philanthropic community would welcome a discussion on these important topics during the High Level Forum on Investments and Financing that we will have in 2 years
- Finally, we welcome the decision of the Community to carefully look at impact and uptake of CFS policy decisions. Foundations are making an extra effort to align our investments with CFS policy decisions.

VIII. Addressing multiple dimensions on inequalities

MESSAGE

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor. I'm speaking on behalf of the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism, and you can find our full statement on our website.

- Inequalities is a topic of deep interest to the philanthropic community. Foundations are both the result of inequalities as well as organizations created for addressing those inequalities
- If we want to eradicate inequalities, we need to examine the diverse set of deep, systemic drivers behind food security outcomes.
- We commend the HLPE in producing such a comprehensive report and the ambition of the CFS in looking at those drivers of power asymmetries and structural inequities. This includes a critical examination of intersectional dimensions, including gender, education, ethnicity, indigeneity, rural/urban locations, and socio-economic status
- In the elaboration of the HLPE Report, we recommended the writing team to set a clear agenda on data collection in inequalities, and we suggested that the report could comparatively explore how different food systems transformations impact inequalities. The CFS has already produced important policy documents that touches upon the topic of inequalities, for example, the recommendations on agroecology and other innovative approaches is helping to consolidate our understanding of important principles of agroecology, such as fairness and participation
- As a policy priority area, we would welcome 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 FSN
- And we welcome a strong focus on participatory, inclusive, democratic decision-making in food governance. Inequalities in food system outcomes are often a reflection of the inequalities within our political systems; therefore, including marginalized groups in policy design and implementation can be a powerful instrument in addressing the root causes of hunger and malnutrition
- It is essential for the CFS to persist in challenging the misconception that inequality drives progress. This is a pervasive wrong idea that is still found in many political debates. Inequalities are linked to poorer food security and nutrition, with far-ranging social, economic, and environmental costs
- Within our new mechanism and several discussions we are involved at the global stage, the philanthropic sector will continue to explore how to catalyze investments in support of food system transformations that lead to more equal societies. We expect to bring lessons from these discussions into the policy convergence process that is starting now

XI. Other matters: presentation of PFM proposal document

Message

Dear CFS Members, Participants, Observers,

I am Matheus Zanella, from the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and I am currently Leading the Coordination of the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism. We are very pleased to present the PROPOSAL FOR MODALITIES FOR A PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATIONS MECHANISM FOR

RELATIONS WITH THE CFS.

As rightly stated in the CFS Reform Document, private philanthropic organizations were encouraged to autonomously establish and maintain a permanent coordination mechanism for participation in the CFS. This engagement with the CFS work has been increasing over the years and, more recently, organizations felt the need to bring more perspectives from the philanthropic community into this space.

As private entities serving public goals, philanthropic foundations are increasingly called to contribute to addressing the growing challenges of disrupted food systems.

Collectively, foundations group together or with other actors launching initiatives to address these challenges. We can take risks. We can fund exploratory research, catalyze processes, support community-led initiatives, build local capacities, and support civil society actors that are often marginalized from development schemes. Foundations have flexibility to respond to the needs of these communities, and their funding can trigger further support.

It's within this context that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Agroecology Fund - a donor community of 40+ active funders supporting agroecology - and us at the Global Alliance for the Future of Food - a strategic alliance of 28 philanthropic foundations working together on food systems transformation - are setting up this Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism (PFM).

Our main objective is to coordinate the participation of philanthropic organizations in the work of the CFS, including input to negotiations, input to consultations, and contributions to the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN).

The Foundations Mechanism will fulfill its role by i) exchanging CFS information, analysis and experience; ii) developing common positions as appropriate; and iii) convening philanthropic organizations.

We will seek to offer statements and submissions representing the maximum consensus possible. Where consensus is not possible, the PFM might either express a range of different positions from its constituencies, or remain silent on the issue.

And we formed a Coordination Committee with a representative of each Philanthropic Organization, and a rotating leadership every year.

While building this Foundations mechanism, we had several consultations with the CFS community, including an informal meeting with CFS members in June 2022, a side event in the past CFS Plenary and B&AG meetings that we were invited to. We had very fruitful exchanges on how the PFM could become a transparent and accountable mechanism, with proper safeguards to ensure the participation of interested foundations in the work of the CFS.

Let me offer a few highlights:

- a) We are working to ensure transparency and accountability of our activities, and I invite you to check our website pfm-cfs.org for keep track of our engagement;
- b) We will assess our performance, achievements and areas of improvement during an Annual Review;
- c) We are discussing the definition of principles and eligibility criteria to attract other foundations. We reiterate that the membership to the PFM is open to interested foundations that do not have commercial interests in their givings, and we are defining protocols to ensure we avoid Conflicts of Interest;
- d) And now we have a focal point - Ludovica Donati, some of you already met as our Liaison here in Rome.

We take this responsibility seriously. This reflects a continued effort from philanthropy to elevate food security, nutrition and food systems transformation in global processes and to collaborate and support different actors.

Let me conclude by trying to answer the single most asked question I heard from colleagues here this week when explaining this mechanism. “But how exactly are you going to work together”? Important question, as we do have different approaches and theories of change.

I will use two quotes to answer this question. One from former CFS Chair Gerda Verburg, who moderated our side event last year: She challenged us saying “it is important that this go through the frictions, debates, heated debates, so it develops a vision and a consensus to have a principles-based platform; and the need to make those principles public to serve for inclusivity”.

My second quote is the title of an article by Thomas Risse, a scholar that influenced much of my personal academic thinking. I think it fits very nicely as an answer to this question of how exactly are we going to find convergence among our diversity. The title of the article is “Let’s argue”.