

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

DATE: March, 2026

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## SUMMARY:

The Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism (PFM) Annual Report 2025:

- Describes the relevant updates in the institutional organization of the PFM;
- Describes PFM's engagement with the CFS programme of work in 2025, especially across priority workstreams (collaborative governance, climate change and biodiversity, financing food security and nutrition, and policy convergence) and during the CFS53 Plenary;
- Presents its next steps: i) further developing the mechanism, its governance and outreach strategy; ii) engaging with CFS across its three functions: uptake, platform and policy; and iii) engaging with the CFS ecosystem.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:	2
<b>1. Institutional Organization of the PFM</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 PFM’s organizing principles and outreach strategy	3
1.2 PFM’s communication	3
<b>2. PFM’s engagement with CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. PFM Contributions to the HLPE-FSN process</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Next steps</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Annex 1 - PFM’s statements at CFS 53</b>	<b>8</b>

# 1. Institutional Organization of the PFM

## 1.1 PFM's organizing principles and outreach strategy

### Governance

As in 2024, the Coordination Committee in 2025 was composed of representatives from the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, the Gates Foundation, and the Agroecology Fund. This composition is expected to remain unchanged for 2026. In 2025, the lead role was held by the Gates Foundation.

### Internal coordination

Under the leadership of the Gates Foundation which served as the Lead Coordinator for 2025, the PFM convened four online meetings, as well as an in-person meeting during CFS Plenary in Rome<sup>1</sup>. These meetings were instrumental in keeping members updated with CFS activities, facilitating information exchange, prioritising engagement with CFS workstreams, developing contributions to CFS processes, and internal coordination.

During 2025, a hiring process was undertaken for the role of Liaison Advisor for the PFM. At the end of 2025, Carlotta Cramer was appointed to the position and the role transitioned from Ludovica Donati to Carlotta Cramer, who assumes the role fully going into 2026.

### Outreach

Building on dynamic outreach in 2024, building the mechanism and reaching out to collaborators across the CFS ecosystem remained a priority in 2025.

Notably, 2025 saw an expansion of the use of the [LinkedIn page](#) to disseminate information about the activities of the PFM with other stakeholders. This supported outreach by offering a record of activities, helping to connect to actors within the CFS ecosystem, and building awareness of the PFM.

<sup>1</sup>On-line meetings on January 11th, April 4th, July 2nd, September 26th and December 4th; in presence meeting on October 22, 2024.

## 1.2 PFM's communication

The Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism [website](#) is the central source of up to date, transparent, accessible information about the activities of the PFM in relation to the CFS. Through the [participant page](#), the PFM documents its activities and contributions to the CFS, namely: comments on CFS workstreams, details about side events, statements made during CFS plenaries, and annual reports. The logo and branding, finalized in early 2024, were consistent in 2025.

The activities of the PFM were also shared on LinkedIn in 2025. As a communication tool, the use of LinkedIn contributed to transparent sharing of information and - in tandem with cross-sharing from member pages - awareness raising across the membership network and CFS ecosystem.

## 2. PFM's engagement with CFS working programme

During 2025, the PFM i) actively participated in the Bureau and Advisory Group, contributing to its discussions and deliberations, ii) engaged with the CFS work program, with a particular focus on discussions related to the Uptake of CFS Policy Products and took part in the CFS policy convergence workstream on Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition, iii) actively engaged in the CFS52 Plenary, contributing to its agenda and discussions, iv) co-organized a side event during CFS52 and v) explored ways to strengthen connections between philanthropic foundations' networks and the work of the CFS. This included efforts to bring inputs from the broader philanthropic community to the CFS and to disseminate and discuss CFS products and processes within these networks.

### Bureau and Advisory Group (Platform)

- PFM attended and participated in all six meetings of the Bureau and Advisory Group (B&AG) in 2025. Additionally, in March 2025, the PFM submitted to the [CFS Secretariat its CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise 2024](#).
- As a member of the Advisory Group, the PFM submitted [written inputs](#) to the mid-term review of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) in March 2025.

### CFS intersessional events and workstreams (Platform)

- Members of the PFM participated in two Technical Task Teams (TTTs), which are ad hoc groups of technical experts from Advisory Group bodies assembled to guide the development of intersessional events. Members of the PFM participated in the TTT for the High-Level Forum (HLF) on Responsible Investment and Financing for Food Security and Nutrition, while the PFM collectively participated in the meetings of the TTT for the HLF on Tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation through the Right to Food.
- Lauren Baker (Global Alliance for the Future of Food) participated as a [speaker](#) in the CFS Collaborative Governance Dialogue on responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition, on 15 April 2025, reflecting on potential solutions and experiences using diverse financing instruments.
- Matheus Alves Zanella (Global Alliance for the Future of Food) participated as a [speaker](#) in the [HLF](#) on Tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation through the Right to Food, on 12 May 2025, adding to the discussion on financing the Right to Food in the context of the Rio Conventions.
- PFM representatives attended the CFS side event to the Financing For Development conference in Seville, June 2025.

### Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition (Policy)

- The PFM participated in the open-ended working groups (OEWGs) for the policy convergence process for the policy recommendations on urban and peri-urban (U-PU) food systems for food security and nutrition.

- The PFM Focal Point attended and participated in the two rounds of policy negotiations in Rome (2-6 June 2025; 8-11 July 2025), without delivering a statement.

#### Uptake

- The PFM participated in a focus group on uptake of CFS policy products in February 2025, with The Graduate Institute.

### **PFM activities during CFS53, 20-24 October 2025**

The PFM attended CFS53 with a significant delegation, representing all three coordination members, as well as members of the network. Attendees were: Ludovica Donati, PFM; Daniel Moss, Agroecology Fund; Matheus Alves Zanella, GAFF; Ruchi Tripathi, GAFF; Lauren Baker, GAFF; Ammad Bahalim, Gates Foundation; Fabrizio Moscatelli, Gates Foundation; Challiss Mcdonough, Gates Foundation; Alex Payne, The Rockefeller Foundation; Jane Maland Cady, McKnight Foundation.

During CFS53, representatives delivered three statements in Plenary, co-organized two side events, and participated in another side event.

#### Statements in Plenary

- PFM Statement on agenda item II. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 – Strengthening Coordination and Collaborative Actions.
- PFM Intervention on agenda item II. Regional Panel, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 – Strengthening Coordination and Collaborative Actions.
- PFM Statement on agenda item V. Building Resilient Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.

#### Side events

- PFM co-organized side event 2 (SE02), Bridging global policy and local action: catalyzing CFS products and implementation of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty through philanthropic engagement, with Brazil, the United Kingdom and the Republic of South Africa.
- PFM co-organized side event 24 (SE24), On the road to COP30: synergies between the right to food and the 3 Rio Conventions, with Brazil, the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM) and Colombia.

## **3. PFM Contributions to the HLPE-FSN process**

Due to resource constraints, the PFM did not submit official contributions to the HLPE-FSN consultation on the VO of the report 'Building resilient food systems'. However, the PFM intends to engage closely with the resulting workstream for policy convergence throughout 2026, and with upcoming HLPE-FSN consultations (namely, Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture).

## 4. Next steps

The main priority tasks ahead for the PFM are:

- I. **Engagement with selected CFS workstreams within the CFS 2024-2027 MYPoW.** The PFM notes members' particular interest in the policy convergence process for Building Resilient Food Systems with opportunity for philanthropic foundations to contribute added value. Additionally, the PFM intends to prioritize contributing to the High Level Forum on Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization and Data Governance, and the Global Thematic Event on Empowering Family Farmers, through participation in the technical task teams (TTTs). The PFM will also contribute to open consultations issued by the CFS and the HLPE-FSN.
  - A. Within engagement with the MYPoW, the PFM sees a particular opportunity in supporting the uptake and use of CFS policy recommendations. This may be a focus of outreach activities (see III below).
- II. **Engagement with the CFS Secretariat and Chair.** In order to facilitate strong engagement of the PFM, it will build closer working relationships with the CFS Secretariat and CFS Chair, Professor Anas Al-Nabulsi.
- III. **Outreach and communications.** Following the Outreach Strategy completed in 2024, the PFM will develop a plan for active, targeted outreach to philanthropic foundations and to actors within the wider CFS ecosystem, particularly through collaboration with the other mechanisms, the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) and the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM). This will be accompanied by clear, transparent, regular communications on activities as well as the development of accessible communication products to aid outreach.

# Annex 1 - PFM's statements at CFS 53

## Item II.

Coordinated policy responses to the food crisis the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 - Strengthening Coordination and Collaborative Actions

## MESSAGE

Thank you to the Chair for giving us the floor and thanks to our colleagues at the Bureau, Advisory Group, and the Secretariat for the work they do all year in preparation for this plenary. While I ordinarily represent the Gates Foundation, with this statement, I am speaking as chair of a group of philanthropies collaborating under the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism.

As we've heard today, the SOFI report underscores that global hunger has stabilized at an unacceptably high level. Unfortunately, we continue to witness the world drifting further away from our collective goal of achieving zero hunger.

As private entities dedicated to charitable purposes, philanthropic foundations are increasingly called upon to address the escalating challenges of disrupted food and agricultural systems. Our unique position allows us to take risks, fund exploratory research, catalyze essential processes, support community-led initiatives, and build local capacities.

This underscores the need to continue expanding and coordinating a community of funders committed to equitable and sustainable agri-food systems, which is the principal purpose of philanthropic collaboration at the CFS.

The SOFI 2025 report makes clear, the resources that philanthropies invest in food security, nutrition, and food systems remain relatively modest in the overall financing landscape. Our efforts can only complement other sources of public support, from governments and multilateral institutions, but cannot supplant them.

For the first time, SOFI provides deep analytical insights into Official Development Assistance for food security and nutrition. It finds that ODA remains fragmented and falls far short of what is needed to meet global targets and that only a small portion of total ODA directly addresses the main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Tracking funding for food insecurity on a regular basis through the SOFI can help the CFS play its mandated role in advancing multistakeholder dialogue to achieve food security. The rigor of the Report, backed by the UN's expert agencies, can serve as a cornerstone for the CFS community to deliberate and align on actionable guidance for the sector. Transparency and accountability through regular reporting on funding is a pre-condition for improving outcomes. We commend the work of the FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO.

Deliberation and analysis must be accompanied by action. To this end, we welcome Brazilian leadership on the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, and the Support Mechanism hosted at the FAO. Rome, as the hub for global dialogue and decision making on food and agricultural development, can help the Alliance work with the many Members represented here.

From lessons on advancing a rights-based approach to transferring knowledge on policy implementation, the Alliance can build momentum on global cooperation to achieve food and nutrition security. We are encouraged by the growing dialogue between the CFS and the Alliance since both have mechanisms for philanthropic engagement.

While I am speaking on behalf of a diverse group of philanthropic organizations, each with its own approach, strategy, and priorities – we are firmly united by a shared commitment to achieving a world free of hunger and malnutrition and to supporting the transition toward equitable and sustainable agri-food systems. We look forward to working across the CFS community to this end.

Thank you.

## Item II.

Regional Panel. Coordinated policy responses to the food crisis the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 - Strengthening Coordination and Collaborative Actions

### MESSAGE

[*Guiding Question:* SOFI 2025 highlights the need for transformative, cross-sectoral collaboration to address persistent food insecurity and malnutrition. As philanthropic foundations increasingly engage in public–private partnerships, can you share examples of how they can leverage their unique position to foster innovation, de-risk investments, and ensure these partnerships prioritize equity, transparency, and impact for the most vulnerable?]

Thank you very much for this opportunity to be part of this important discussion.

To answer the question about innovation, derisking, equity and impact, please permit me to share with you a perspective from a participant in a recent gathering of agroecology donors held here in Rome last week.

At that meeting, Pierre Kadet, from Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) defined innovation in a simple and elegant way. Innovation, he said, is a practical solution to a real problem which is co-created with the intended end user. Co-creation with the end user. Very clear. Although IDRC is not a philanthropic organization, I bring in Pierre’s perspective partially to illustrate that philanthropies do not work alone but rather collaborate with bilateral and multilateral development agencies and private investors, with the aspiration to strengthen government policies and programs for healthy and sustainable food systems.

I’m sure we all agree that solutions to food insecurity depend in large measure on local, community-based traditional knowledge and organization. Co-creation is one of the 13 principles of agroecology as articulated by HLPE some years ago. Philanthropies have the flexibility and mission mandate to use their resources to support civil society organizations and networks that are close to the ground, mobilizing some of the hundreds of millions of food insecure people to advocate on their own behalf.

Philanthropies are well positioned to support the immense creativity and reach of these civil society organizations and movements of which they form part. To achieve scale, this co-creation growing out of traditional

knowledge works best when local efforts rooted in territorial realities are networked together through municipal, regional, national and international alliances and coalitions which coalesce into movements, all of which can be supported by philanthropies.

Poorly regulated markets and inadequate public programs have not been kind to the poor. We see in the SOFI report the effects of inflation, fragile supply chains, and the increased consumption of cheap, highly processed food. Gaining access to affordable, nutritious food points to the need to work towards food sovereignty to satisfy dietary requirements with healthy local food, from the community to the national level. Food sovereignty is a necessary but complex innovation and requires co-creation with those seeking it to achieve it.

The PFM itself is not itself a grant making institution but rather a consortium of philanthropies, collectively supporting CFS goals and the uptake of CFS products. Permit me to provide an example of philanthropic support provided through the Agroecology Fund, a member of the PFM. This is just one example - the innovation is truly overwhelming and inspiring - we are overwhelmed with excellent proposals from around the globe to transition to healthy and sustainable food systems. In India, for example, we are honoured to support the NCNF and we applaud India's public commitment to natural farming.

But let me turn to Africa. First a quick appreciation to my colleague from Kenya. We applaud Kenya's work towards a national agroecology plan, which is co-created with civil society networks like Pelum which for example support farmer networks in the local manufacture of bio inputs. On the other side of the continent, Nous Sommes la Solution is a women led civil society network in West Africa - It has received philanthropic support to research indigenous rice varieties together with universities and public research institutions as a climate resilience solution. Their research was used in advocacy for increased support to small holder farmers growing these varieties, for strengthening territorial markets for local products together with municipal authorities and to strengthen the business case for women's managed agroecological enterprises. To share lessons, build power, and counter concentrated corporate interests across Africa, Nous Sommes la Solution has joined the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, which advocates for agroecology – a pillar of food sovereignty - to be featured in African nations' climate action plans.

This sort of nested network action and movement building, with civil society organizations at the centre of collaborations with allies from the public and private sectors, starting from the local and building to the continental and global, is some of the work that philanthropies support. These efforts are critical for innovation, equity and impact. It is certainly our hope that with increased and consistent support to this type of grassroots leadership, the next SOFI report will indicate greater progress towards food security.

Thank you.

## Item V.

Building Resilient Food Systems for  
Food Security and Nutrition

## MESSAGE

Madam Chair, thank you for the opportunity.

We would like to congratulate HLPE in producing such clear, comprehensive, systemic and refreshing framing of Resilience.

Often Resilience is reduced to a technical approach alone. We recognize and welcome the focus on addressing underlying barriers as a way of unlocking potential of both communities and the food system to be equitably resilient.

We in the philanthropic foundations mechanism, look forward to engaging in the policy convergence process.

Thank you.