

What's Causing Higher and More Volatile Food Prices Around the World?

HLPE & Price Volatility: Process and Next Steps

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Overview

1. Situating the HLPE

1. Next steps



Some acronyms

HLPE: High Level Panel of Experts

CFS: Committee on Food Security

CSM: Civil Society Mechanism

FAO: Food & Agriculture Organization

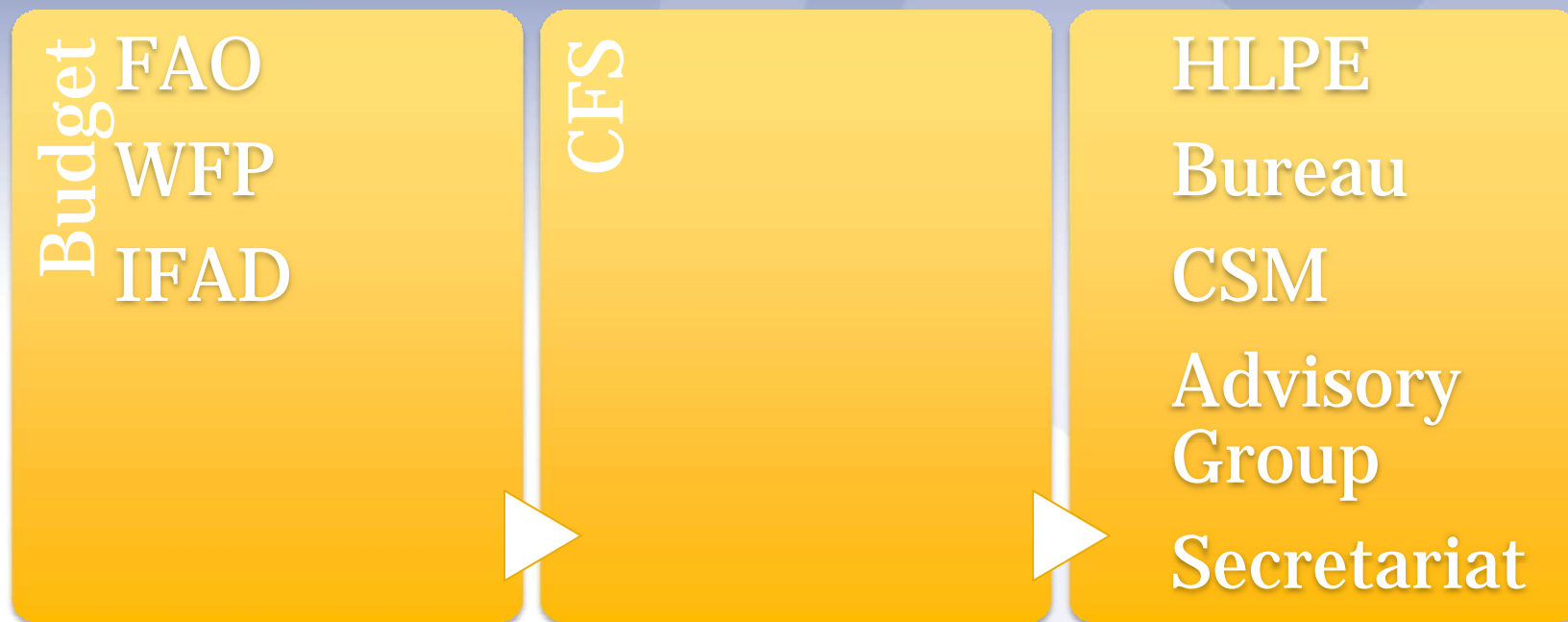
WFP: World Food Program

**IFAD: International Fund for Agriculture
and Development**



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How do they relate?



Composition CFS Advisory Group

- UN Organizations and Bodies = 5
- CSOs/NGOs = 4
- International Ag Research Body (CBD; CGIAR) = 1
- IFI or International Trade Institution (WB/IMF/WTO) = 1
- Private Sector/Philanthropic Foundation = 2



What is the HLPE?

- 15 experts from around the world
- Provide independent and expert advice from various constituencies (all government approved)
- Created by decision in Committee on Food Security (CFS) reform 2009



Functions

- Assess and analyze food security and nutrition **and its underlying causes**
- Provide scientific and knowledge-based analysis using **existing** research & data
- Identify emerging issues
- **Prioritize future actions**





HLPE Structure

Two tiers :

- 1. Steering Committee of 15 experts**
- 2. Project Teams selected and managed by the Steering Committee to write the reports on specific issues**





What is important?

- New and experimental
- Arms-length from government
- Includes civil society views
- Acknowledges “alternative knowledge”
- Meant to push governments beyond political comfort level



<http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/en/>

(background on HLPE; also available in French and Spanish)

Civil society for the CFS

<http://cso4cfs.org/> ; <http://foodnutgov.ning.com/>

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North American CSO Coordinator



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II. NEXT STEPS



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1. Report to HLPE

- **Presentation at July meeting of panel**
- **Final changes to text (not required to have project team approval)**
- **Submission to the CFS**



2. Disseminate

- Translate in English, French and Spanish
- Publish on-line
- Present to the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group
- Prepare a press release
- Launch in October



3. Prepare Background Docs for CFS

- CFS secretariat drafts documents for Bureau and Advisory Group to consider
- Documents provide background analysis plus a “decision box” – what will governments do next on the issue
- Include HLPE, G20 & FAO regional meetings



4. The Politics

- G20 Ag Ministers met June 2011 (Paris)
- Commission IO report on p.v.
- Report finalized early June
- Covers very similar ground without domestic component



4.b. More politics

- Strong push from some govmts to endorse G20 outcomes and ignore HLPE
- Pushback from other govmts +CSOs
- Fight will continue up to and throughout CFS 37 (Oct. 2011)



5. The G20 Recommendations

- **AMIS: Agricultural Market Information System**
 - Start with G20 members (and invite private sector) to provide more information about available stocks
- **WFP feasibility study + pilot project to test emergency reserve**



5. The Contentious Issues

- **Biofuels**
 - Evidence clear but political will lacking
- **Trade**
 - Liberalization at a stand-still
- **Beyond emergency reserves**
 - Necessary yet rejected
- **Speculation**
 - Real differences; evidence getting clearer



From the draft decision box

Establish a process to review the recommendations of the HLPE study on food price volatility, the FAO regional meetings, the report of the International Agencies for the G20 and agree on an evidence-based action plan that addresses core structural issues, considers effective policies and supports the development of comprehensive national food security strategies which are inclusive of civil society and farmers' organizations.



More reading

- **The HLPE report**

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE-price-volatility-and-food-security-report-July-2011.pdf

- **The G20 Report from the IO**

<http://www.ifad.org/operations/food/documents/g20.pdf>

- **The G20 Agriculture Ministers Declaration**

<http://www.g20-g8.com/g8-g20/g20/english/news/news/declaration-of-the-ministers-of-agriculture.1401.html>

