

Strategy Paper: A Reformed International Alliance for a Reformed CFS

The origins of the IAAH and its link to the CFS

The International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) was created in Rome in 2003 in response to the declaration of the 2002 *World Food Summit* - five years later. The declaration, subtitled “International Alliance Against Hunger”, recognized ‘*the urgent need to reinforce efforts of all concerned partners as an international alliance against hunger, for the fulfillment of the objectives of the 1996 Summit*’. The declaration called ‘*on all parties (governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector) to reinforce their efforts so as to act as an international alliance against hunger to achieve the WFS targets no later than 2015. With this aim, parties should promote coordinated action. Bearing in mind the contribution of all parties, countries should continue to report on progress to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), within its mandate as a focal point for the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action*’.

The IAAH is a voluntary association of international organizations – including Bioversity International, FAO, IFAD and WFP as well as international NGOs/CSOs, serviced by a secretariat housed in FAO. The IAAH aims to:

- Contribute to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially by strengthening national and global commitment and action to end hunger and malnutrition;
- give expression to the aspirations of the poor and hungry;
- engage the poor and hungry as full partners in finding and implementing solutions that make a real difference to their lives and the lives of generations to come;
- facilitate dialogue on the most effective measures to reduce hunger and malnutrition;
- promote mutually supportive action involving governments and other stakeholders in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

It has pursued these aims both at the global level, and through encouraging the creation of National Alliances Against Hunger (NAAH) in both developing and developed countries. The IAAH has launched and facilitated the activities of National Alliances in (currently) 32 countries¹. This represents a significant investment in social capital.

The IAAH focuses its activities in four main areas:

1. **Advocacy**: Identifying and promoting common themes for advocacy and communication and facilitating participation in global relevant events.
2. **Accountability**: National Alliances decide their own strategies independently but make time-bound commitments.
3. **Coordination**: The IAAH is the central node for coordination among Alliance members and National Alliances; it encourages direct contact and networking among global and national groups.
4. **Resource mobilization**: Identifying and mobilizing funds for hunger reduction programmes, as well as highlighting funding opportunities for National Alliances.

¹ For further background information and lists of NAAHs, please link to IAAH Website www.iaahp.net

Since its inception, the IAAH has regularly reported on its activities to the Committee on World Food Security as agreed during its 29th session (CFS 2003). The CFS has commended the work of the Secretariat and emphasized its role as fundamental to the continuing success of the emergence and development of the National Alliances and of the IAAH as a useful mechanism to achieve the WFS Plan of Action and the MDGs. The Committee repeatedly acknowledged the growth and achievements of National Alliances against Hunger, making valuable recommendations for their further development. It also called on the IAAH to develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy (CFS 2007) finalized by the IAAH Secretariat in consultation with NAAHs in December 2007.

The new global context and the reform of the CFS

With the recent developments related to the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA), Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS), and the emerging expanded role of the reformed Committee on World Food Security, there is a window of opportunity for the International Alliance Against Hunger to play a key role in this new governance structure. The three key guiding principles for the CFS reform - *inclusiveness, strong linkages to the field and flexibility in implementation* - reflect the nature of the IAAH which operates by bringing together a wide-range of stakeholders, both at global and national level, as a global partnership to fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

The need to create strong partnerships that bring together all key players involved at national level in reducing hunger and malnutrition is widely recognized by all advocates of reform of the global governance structures for food security. By facilitating the emergence of National Alliances Against Hunger and the development of linkages between them, the IAAH is well positioned to assist in nurturing the growth of a strong network of national partnerships. In this context, the IAAH/NAAHs can support the reformed CFS to enable its new vision, role and functions to be reflected at country level.

To undertake this role effectively the IAAH must reinforce its accountability² and coordination mandates and concentrate its efforts on building a broad network of strong National Alliances in both developed and developing countries in support of national hunger reduction and food security strategies and programmes. The reinforcement of IAAH capacity to undertake such work, and facilitating the functioning and growth of National Alliances as an instrument for the realization of national food security and CFS goals must be a priority. IAAH must also seek to deepen its cooperation with other existing country level frameworks that are geared towards fighting hunger and malnutrition and supporting food security realization, such as the country operations of the International Food Security Network that is promoted by ActionAid International and the country operations of the U.N. High Level Task Force (HLTF). Such partnerships and cooperation would be entirely consistent with the CFA recommendation that country-level “partnerships for food” be built on existing mechanisms and frameworks. In this perspective, among the original functions of the IAAH, accountability and coordination will be focused towards implementing the CFS reform at country level, particularly in its Phase II.

² To read on IAAH event on Accountability held at FAO headquarters in Rome in October 2009 ‘Delivering on Commitments to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition by 2025’, visit the following link:

http://www.iaahp.net/fileadmin/templates/iaah/WFD2009/Resources/Side_Event_Docs/IAAH_Event_Report_EN_final.pdf

Proposals for the way forward: Strengthening the IAAH in the context of the reformed CFS

The IAAH has been recognized as one of the existing mechanisms to build upon to serve the implementation of the CFS reform, particularly at the country level.

The IAAH is well placed to contribute to the CFS reform activities. It can draw on the existing network of National Alliances to help strengthen CFS partnerships and 'ownership' dimensions and at the same time reinforcing the capacity of National Alliances to engage in policy dialogue and eventually contribute to the preparation of country reports to the reformed CFS.

The table below provides possible added-value of the IAAH in the context of each of the roles of the reformed CFS (in bold) as described in the CFS reform document and subject to decisions by CFS regarding implementation plans for future phases.

The IAAH potential to contribute to CFS reform implementation

Phase I

- i) **Coordination at the global level:** IAAH Secretariat will keep the National Alliances informed of the ongoing global debates and offer them a neutral space for forum discussion to present their specific contexts and needs.
- ii) **Policy convergence:** IAAH will work to promote policy convergence and coordination for National Alliances.
- iii) **Support and advice to countries and regions:** IAAH will promote the practical application of the “Voluntary Guidelines for the Right to Food” through promoting links among National Alliances. This will allow the National Alliances to learn from the experiences of those in countries that have included the Right to Food in their national constitutions and supporting legislation.

Phase II (subject to final decision by CFS regarding Phase II)

- i) **Coordination at national and regional level:** IAAH will serve as a bridge to link the CFS and a progressively expanding number of National Alliances. It also will promote the creation of Regional Alliances such as the Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger (LASH). IAAH also will encourage National Alliances to expand their roles in the development of national food security and nutrition policies, strategies and programmes, and to coordinate their work with other existing structures, such as the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF).
- ii) **Promote accountability and best practices at all levels:** IAAH will foster dialogue and facilitate the development of accountability mechanisms at country level which will then feed into global level.
- iii) **Develop a global strategic framework for food security and nutrition:** The IAAH will seek inputs from its National Alliances and actively contribute to the development of a Global Strategic Framework.

In this context, the Secretariat intends to organize a National Alliances Workshop, to be held in June 2010 at FAO headquarters in Rome, aimed at defining the roles that National Alliances can play in country-level stakeholder coordination and in the formulation and implementation of



coherent National level food security strategy and programmes using participatory processes. The concept note which follows describes the intended organisation, delivery and outcomes associated with the workshop.

Workshop on the role of National Alliances in the context of the Reformed CFS

Background: The recent developments related to the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS) offer a significant opportunity for the International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) to strengthen its role in fight against hunger and support the CFS's new vision, role and functions to be reflected at country level and nurturing the growth of a strong network of national partnerships.

The IAAH has been recognized as one of the existing mechanisms to build upon to serve the implementation of the CFS reform, particularly at the country level. The IAAH is well placed to contribute to the CFS reform activities. It can draw on the existing network of National Alliances to help strengthen CFS partnerships and 'ownership' dimensions and at the same time reinforcing the capacity of National Alliances to engage in policy dialogue and eventually contribute to the preparation of country reports to the reformed CFS.

In this context, the Secretariat wishes to organise a National Alliances Workshop, to be held in June 2010 at FAO headquarters in Rome to take stock of National Alliances, define their possible role in country coordination and advancement of coherent national level food security strategies and programmes, and discuss their potential role to contribute to the reformed CFA.

In this regard in preparation for the workshop the IAAH is conducting a National Alliances' on-line discussion forum in order to consult and engage National Alliances in the workshop preparations and to sense the effective involvement with the issues to be debated during the Workshop. The IAAH Secretariat will also request FAORs contribution in guiding and assisting National Alliances in the run up to the Workshop.

Workshop Objectives and Expected Outcomes: The objective of the three-day National Alliances Workshop is to assess the current status of the National Alliances in terms of effective aims, activities and achievements in order to evaluate how to strengthen their possible role in country-level initiatives in the context of the reformed CFS.

Specifically, the workshop will address:

- lessons learned from NAAHs;
- how successful existing national partnerships processes can be scaled up and institutionalized;
- underlying challenges and considerations in the country-level implementation of the hunger reduction and food security strategies;
- engage in the ongoing CFS reform process and discuss their potential role in this process in the development of national food security and nutrition policies, strategies and programmes.

The expected output of the workshop is lessons learned and recommendations on the effective role of the National Alliances in moving the CFS process forward at the national level.



Target Audience: This workshop will bring together:

- Heads and a key focal point of active National Alliances identified on the basis of their participation to the preliminary forum discussion addressing National Alliances proposed role to move the CFS process forward at the national level;
- Relevant senior staff from the ministries related to food security;
- Permanent Representatives from the participating National Alliances countries;
- The CFS and IAAH Secretariat as well as representatives from the HLTF Secretariat and the IAAH Working Group members.

Design & Methodology: The overall workshop design is modular, with a dedicated session for each intervention. National Alliances will make 10 minutes presentations aimed to highlight their core achievements and expectations from their possible role in country-level initiative in the context of the reformed CFS.

National Alliances will then divide into working groups and develop recommendations and discuss proposals on National Alliances possible role in the context of the reformed CFS.

Each group will then present their proposals and a moderated panel discussion will follow to draw out the key considerations and identified challenges in implementation, scaling-up and further institutionalization (including NAAH governance structure).

Moderators and panelists will be identified among those most experienced in the area of policy implementation.



Road Map

	Task	Proposed Deadline
1	Complete annual survey/assessment of National Alliances activities and needs	March 2010
2	Information Sharing with country-level members with the purpose to provide them with the necessary elements to define their strategies in the context of the reformed CFS	March 2010
3	Finalizing annual data matrix on National Alliances updated information	April 2010
4	E-Forum Consultation with National Alliances on their possible role within the context of the reformed CFS	May 2010
5	National Alliances Workshop: lessons learned and recommendations/proposals for the potential role of National Alliances in the context of the reformed CFS	June 2010
6	Follow-up on workshop outcomes and preparation of a document for consideration of CFS	September 2010
7	Presentation of National Alliances proposal and discussion of country level implementation plans in the context of the reformed CFS	October 2010