

Policy Recommendations to the Norwegian Delegation to the 54th Session of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS54), Rome, 19–23 October 2026

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About ForUM

The Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM) is a network of Norwegian civil society organizations working on climate, biodiversity, sustainable food systems development, and human rights. ForUM's work on food security and sustainable food systems promotes evidence-based, rights-based, equitable, and inclusive policies that advance the right to adequate food and nutrition, while safeguarding climate and biodiversity. Policy priorities include the rights, livelihoods, and effective participation of small-scale food producers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.

Background

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 ([SOFI 2026](#)) reports that, despite a third consecutive year of declining global hunger, around 645 million people experienced chronic hunger in 2025 and 2.69 billion could not afford a healthy diet. The [UN Secretary-General further reports](#) that more than 130 countries have developed national food-systems transformation pathways since the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, while only 39 had translated these into more detailed implementation plans. A [2025 analysis of 124 national food system plans](#) found that food production dominated, whereas distribution, processing, consumption, environmental impacts, labor conditions and animal welfare received limited attention; most proposed policy directions also remained within existing food systems. Together, these findings point to an implementation and governance gap: progress requires coherent, rights-based and accountable action across the entire food system, shaped by those most affected. Against this background, ForUM presents recommendations under CFS54 agenda items II, III, IV, VI(c) and VII concerning coordinated action on food security and nutrition, resilience, Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems, fair incomes and value distribution, and the empowerment of family farmers.

Item II: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World – Strengthening Coordination and Collaborative Actions.

ForUM recommends that Norway:

- Promote the right to adequate food as the overarching framework for coordinated action on food security and nutrition, with people and communities most affected by food insecurity playing a central role in decision-making.
- Support nutrition-sensitive social protection, including school meals and targeted income support, alongside long-term investment in diversified production, local value chains, storage and infrastructure.
- Ensure that policies to reduce the cost of healthy diets do not shift costs onto small-scale food producers, workers, public health systems, climate or biodiversity.

- Promote policy coherence that combines affordable healthy diets with fair producer incomes, decent work, access to productive resources, sustainable resource management and increased availability of diverse, nutritious foods.
- Support rights-based and inclusive governance of AI and food-system data, including safeguards for privacy, data ownership, consent and equitable benefit-sharing, access to data for independent research, and meaningful participation of small-scale producers, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.
- Emphasize that digital technologies must serve the public interest and the right to food, rather than deepen existing inequalities or concentrate market power.

Item III: CFS Policy Recommendations on Building Resilient Food Systems.

ForUM recommends that Norway:

- Ensure that the CFS recommendations place the right to adequate food and equitable, transformative resilience at their core, addressing the structural inequalities, power imbalances and differential vulnerabilities that make people and food systems susceptible to crises.
- Strengthen local institutions, agency and locally led solutions, ensuring that small-scale food producers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities play a central role in building resilient food systems.
- Promote diversity as a foundation of resilience by supporting diversified and agroecological production, healthy soils and functioning water systems, agricultural biodiversity, locally adapted crops and varieties, farmers' seed systems and complementary conservation of plant genetic resources.
- Reduce structural dependence on volatile external inputs by strengthening diverse local and territorial production and market systems.
- Make social protection, preparedness and anticipatory action integral to resilience, rather than relying on repeated emergency responses.
- Ensure flexible, predictable and long-term financing that connects humanitarian responses and early action with climate adaptation, sustainable livelihoods, peacebuilding and long-term food-system transformation.

Item IV: Indigenous Peoples' Food and Knowledge Systems and Traditional Practices.

ForUM recommends that Norway:

- Recognize and protect Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems as integral to sustainable and resilient food systems, including their contributions to conserving biodiversity, genetic resources and locally adapted food-production practices.
- Uphold Indigenous Peoples' rights in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including their rights to territories, resources, knowledge, self-determined governance, and free, prior and informed consent in decisions affecting them.

- Ensure that Indigenous and traditional knowledge, on its own terms, informs food-security, biodiversity and climate policies, with safeguards against unauthorized access, use and appropriation.

Item VI(c): Theme of the HLPE-FSN Report 2028.

ForUM recommends that Norway:

- Support the proposed 2028 HLPE-FSN study on equitable distribution of value and fair incomes in agriculture and food systems. The study should examine structural inequalities and concentration of market power across food value chains and identify policy options that strengthen the bargaining power of small-scale and family farmers and secure fair, stable and dignified incomes.

Item VII: Global Thematic Event on Empowering Family Farmers.

ForUM recommends that Norway:

- Promote national implementation of existing CFS recommendations through concrete measures that strengthen family farmers' access to land and other productive resources, finance, extension services, appropriate technology, territorial markets and public procurement.
- Support producer organizations and cooperatives and ensure that family farmers can meaningfully influence policies affecting their livelihoods.
- Advance women's equal rights to land, productive resources, finance, services and decision-making, alongside decent employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for rural youth.

Cross-cutting message

- Across these agenda items, ForUM encourages Norway to safeguard CFS's role as the foremost inclusive, intergovernmental UN platform for food security and nutrition, grounded in the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, independent evidence and the meaningful participation of those most affected by food insecurity.
- In response to the UN Secretary-General's call for stronger Member State leadership and a clearer institutional framework for food-systems transformation, Norway should promote CFS as the appropriate institutional home for coordinated global follow-up, while avoiding parallel structures and duplication.

With regards,

Gina Ekholt

Secretary General, The Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM)