



# Executive Minutes Steering Committee Meeting

April 2-3, 2025, Washington DC, United States  
In-Person and Virtual

## **GAFSP Steering Committee Chair Mr. James Catto**

Director, Office of International Development Policy, International Affairs, United States Department of the Treasury

## **GAFSP Private Sector Window Donor Committee Chair Mr. Radio Save**

Commercial Agriculture and Sustainable Investment Lead | Global Food Security, Agriculture and Land, United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Accepted for the Steering  
Committee

JAMES CATTO

*SIGNED JC*

JAMES CATTO

Accepted for the Private Sector  
Window Donor Committee

RADIO SAVE

*SIGNED RS*

RADIO SAVE

## **DAY 1 – APRIL 2, 2025**

### **Welcome, introduction of new participants and adoption of agenda**

An in-person meeting of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) Steering Committee (SC) was held on April 2-3, 2025. The meeting was preceded by a virtual pre-meeting of the SC, which took place on March 12, 2025. The Minutes of the virtual pre-meeting of the SC have been included in Annex I, while the list of participants in the virtual pre-meeting of the SC have been included in Annex II. In addition, a meeting of the Donor Committee for the GAFSP Private Sector Window took place on April 1, 2025. The Minutes of the Donor Committee Meeting are shared separately with Members of the Donor Committee.

The in-person meeting was opened by the Chair of the GAFSP Steering Committee, Mr. James Catto. In his opening remarks, the Chair highlighted the meeting objectives and structure of the agenda to participants. The Chair also welcomed a new member to the SC: Bruno Jacquet (IDB) who will replace Pedro Martel as an alternate on the SC. A full list of in-person and virtual participants in the in-person SC Meeting has been included in Annex III.

The SC formally endorsed the agenda set for the meeting.

### **Opening Remarks**

The Chair thanked the SC for the progress made with respect to the decisions taken during the last in-person SC Meeting in Cambodia in May '24. The Chair highlighted in particular the extensive and inclusive consultation process around GAFSP's proposed Vision 2030, which has been undertaken with both SC Members and external stakeholders by the Coordination Unit (CU) and the SC's Senior Strategy Advisor, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero. The process helped align the proposed Vision 2030 document and the concept proposal for the 8th Call for Producer Organization-led Proposals with the results of the 5 Year Program Evaluation. In light of an increasingly complex and challenging global context, the Chair underscored the relevance and importance of the decision points on the SC Meeting's agenda, which seek to strengthen GAFSP's impact on the livelihoods of smallholder producers and rural communities in low income countries.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Natasha Hayward, GAFSP Program Manager and Global Lead for Food and Nutrition Security at the World Bank, highlighted that the agenda prepared for the first day of the SC Meeting will allow SC Members to reflect upon and discuss key global themes, processes, and lessons learned from recent GAFSP evaluations. These would provide the necessary context for the decision points included in the agenda prepared for the second day of the SC Meeting. Ms. Hayward thanked on behalf of the CU all SC Members for their participation in the different SC's Working Groups, which helped inform the decision points included in the SC Meeting's agenda.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Harold Tavares, World Bank EDS13 Executive Director, highlighted GAFSP's ability to leverage public, private, and philanthropic funds, its reach with countries affected

by fragility and conflict, and its focus on vulnerable groups such as women and youth. Mr. Tavares also referred to the outcomes of the recent Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris (March 27-28), where the international community committed \$28 billion to fight malnutrition, as an example of how multilateralism can work to improve food and nutrition security. Lastly, Mr. Tavares commended the ambitions reflected in GAFSP's proposed Vision 2030 to strengthen impacts by catalyzing collective actions at scale and improving synergies and coordination across the Program.

In her recorded opening remarks, H.E. Eva Granados, State Secretary for International Cooperation of Spain and Co-Chair of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, stressed the need to better coordinate development efforts and integrate different source of financing through programs such as GAFSP, which remains a priority instrument for international cooperation for the Government of Spain. The State Secretary welcomed in particular the ambitions of the proposed Vision 2030 for GAFSP to position the Program as (i) a global and local platform to coordinate collective actions; (ii) a catalyst for long-term investments in the transformation of agri-food systems; (iii) a lever for mobilizing public and private financing at scale; (iv) a facilitator of more integrated country-led programs that deliver multiple social and environmental benefits; and (v) an instrument at the service of rural communities and producer organizations. The State Secretary concluded by highlighting the United Nations' Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development to be hosted by Spain on June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 3<sup>rd</sup> as a critical moment to make progress in the fight against hunger and poverty and the role the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty will play in advancing this commitment.

In his recorded remarks on behalf of South Africa's G20 Presidency, Mr. Mooketsa Ramasodi, Director General of the Department of Agriculture of South Africa, introduced the work of the Food Security Task Force and Agriculture Working Group as outlined in the [issue note](#) prepared by South Africa's G20 Presidency. Mr. Ramasodi highlighted South Africa's ambition to elevate the development priorities of the African continent and the Global South on the agenda of the G20, including food security as one of the apex priorities during South Africa's Presidency. The Food Security Task Force under South Africa's G20 Presidency is expected to complement the country-led work promoted by the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty by considering regional and global dimensions of food security. The agriculture working group will adopt an agri-food value chain and food system approach that focuses on (i) promoting policies and investments for inclusive growth; (ii) empowering women and youth in agri-food systems; (iii) facilitating innovation and technology transfer in agriculture and agro-processing; and (iv) building climate resilience for sustainable agricultural production. The G20 Presidency noted that it looks forward to GAFSP Vision 2030 outcomes that can be implemented through national strategies and regional interventions.

### **Panel Discussion on Africa Food System Transformation and the AU CAADP Post-Malabo Process**

The panel discussion was facilitated by Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero, GAFSP Senior Strategy Advisor. Participants in the panel included (i) Éliane Ubalijoro, CEO of the Center for International

Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), (ii) Madhur Gautam, Senior Research Fellow with the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Unit of IFPRI; (iii) Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development for the African Union Commission; (iv) Dr. Sule Ochai, Senior Agricultural Policy Advisor for the African Development Bank; and (iv) Nadjirou Sall, Secretary General of ROPPA.

The session opened with in-person remarks provided by Ms. Lonkhululeko Magagula, Alternate Executive Director for the Anglophone Africa Region (EDS14). To meet the challenge of transforming food systems in Africa, Ms. Magagula emphasized the need for collaborative approaches that place young people and women smallholders at the center and that empower them with targeted investments in skills, training, and access to technology. She identified innovation and digital solutions as key tools to modernize agriculture, improve market access, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance food availability throughout the year. Ms. Magagula highlighted that the post-Malabo process of the African Union (AU)'s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) offers an opportunity to learn from past efforts, adopt good practices, and scale up responses to global challenges. In light of global tensions, climate impacts, and aid stagnation, GAFSP's role as a critical support instrument for underrepresented producers was recognized, along with appreciation for the support it provides to many African countries. In addition, Ms. Magagula stressed governments' responsibility in transforming food systems and mobilizing private sector investments through risk sharing approaches. Partnerships between public, private, and civil society actors were seen as essential to increase smallholders' income by improving access to finance, technologies, and markets.

During his virtual remarks, Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems, placed Africa's food system transformation agenda within a broader historical context, tracing progress from the African Union (AU)'s Maputo Declaration in 2003 to the Malabo Declaration in 2014, and now to the post-Malabo process launched by the adoption of the AU's Kampala Declaration in January 2025. While earlier phases focused on national agricultural investment plans and compacts, including the Maputo process supported by GAFSP, the current process introduces a stronger multisectoral approach with Kampala CAADP compliant National Agri-Food Systems Transformation Plans (NASTPs) as a key tool. Greater involvement of the private sector and increased support to small-scale farmers are central priorities. Taking into account the lessons learned from the Malabo process, Dr. Mayaki emphasized that future success will hinge on strengthening both national implementation and coordination capacities for promoting multisector approaches. He therefore stressed the importance of aligning support deployed under the future GAFSP Strategic Plan around these two critical success factors, especially considering the ongoing transition toward a post-ODA development model.

Panelists discussed how future support from the international community to the CAADP Post-Malabo goals, including GAFSP, should incentivize the development and support the



implementation of credible, evidence-based NASTPs. NASTPs would include investments that are aligned with country-led priorities and implementation progress would be monitored on a bi-annual basis. GAFSP was invited to participate in the development of the indicator framework that will be used to monitor implementation progress under the Kampala Declaration, which will take place towards the end of 2025. They also encouraged strong collaboration between the AU institutions (AU Commission, AU Development Agency-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities), which will support the implementation of CAADP post-Malabo process, while leveraging additional resources provided by donors and International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Development partners were urged to revive the compact-based approach of the Maputo process, while also engaging more directly with producer organizations and grassroots actors. The African Development Bank reaffirmed major financial commitments and highlighted flagship initiatives focused on processing zones, agricultural technology, and youth empowerment. Producer organizations called for deeper engagement in policymaking and implementation processes to ensure accountability and inclusion. The importance of integrated landscape approaches was raised, with examples of successful land restoration and agroforestry in several African countries. These approaches support productivity, biodiversity, water management, and resilience, especially when combined with participatory governance. Gender equality was a cross-cutting theme, with emphasis on removing systemic barriers that limit women's access to land, finance, training, and leadership. Research and innovation were identified as key drivers of transformation, with a recommendation to embed research from the outset in national planning processes. GAFSP was encouraged to continue supporting both service delivery and the institutional and policy enablers needed for the adoption and scaling of innovations.

### **Panel Discussion on Maximizing Partnerships for Climate Resilient and Nutrition-Smart Farmers and Food Systems**

The panel discussion was facilitated by Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero, GAFSP Senior Strategy Advisor. Participants in the panel included (i) Ahmad Slaibi, Senior Industry Specialist for Manufacturing Agriculture and Services at IFC; (ii) Bill Sutton, Global Lead for Climate Smart Agriculture in the World Bank's Agriculture and Food Global Practice; (iii) Peter Umunay, Cluster Lead for Food Systems and Land Use at the Global Environment Facility (GEF); (iv) Bella Tonkonogy, Senior Director for Programs of Climate Policy Initiative (CPI); and (v) Elizabeth Basauri Bryan, Research Fellow in the Natural Resources and Resilience Unit of IFPRI. Ambassador Ferrero opened the session by inviting participants to reflect on integrated and multi-sectoral solutions in the agrifood space and to explore ways in which GAFSP could better catalyze integrated investments in agri-food systems and value chains that put smallholder farmers, rural livelihoods, and nutrition security at the center.

The panel discussion underscored the fact that globally only about 4 percent of total climate finance goes to agri-food systems even as last year was the hottest on record and GHG emissions were at their highest level in recorded history. Meanwhile, GAFSP has demonstrated that it can help

smallholder producers reduce GHG emissions and contribute to adaptation while increasing productivity by investing in areas such as soil health, agroforestry, improved water management techniques. However, smallholders cannot pay for these investments themselves and require concessional and preferably grant financing from programs such as GAFSP. Examples of World Bank projects included those in Zambia and Ethiopia where a relatively modest amount of grant financing has leveraged a significant amount of additional resources in terms of World Bank lending and financing from the private sector to help smallholder farmers. They demonstrate how programs like GAFSP can work with SEs to attract financing from the private sector through an integrated approach to food systems whereby climate smart agriculture and related practices deliver multiple benefits.

The panel emphasized that integrated approaches require different stakeholders to be brought to the table, while leveraging local knowledge and scientific evidence. The GEF highlighted that it can work with programs like GAFSP to build synergies and shift the needle in terms of promoting integration, inclusiveness, and scaling impact.

From the private sector's perspective, IFC highlighted that major companies that are sourcing agri-food products from smallholders in low-income countries are under increasing pressure to strengthen the resilience of their supply chains. In particular, agri-food companies are seeking to increase productivity by implementing regenerative agriculture production systems that help farmers adopt practices that have been proven to improve yield in a changing climate. Companies recognize that they can work with programs like GAFSP to invest not only in smallholder production, but the resilience of their supply chains and their ability to deliver food safely and sustainably to consumers.

IFPRI highlighted their work which recognizes that climate change can undermine the transformation of food systems through the negative impacts it has on nutrition and gender equality. However, by empowering women smallholders as agents of change they can help increase production, diversify production systems, and improve child nutrition outcomes across agri-food systems.

CPI emphasized the importance of building bridges between the public and private sectors to mobilize more capital for agri-food systems in low-income countries. CPI manages programs that work all along the investment value chain from the earliest stage of capital needs to mainstream transactions. Under the ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC), for example, CPI focuses on connecting both the demand and the supply of finance by bridging the needs and interests of investors such as impact investors and fund managers with those of agri-businesses SMEs in a broad set of countries and regions.

### **GAFSP Portfolio Review and Insights**

The CU presented on two topics providing in-depth insights into the GAFSP portfolio: the first on the cross-cutting outcomes under GAFSP's theory of change, namely improved climate resilience,

empowered women and girls, and improved nutrition (i.e. cross-cutting thematic reviews); and the second on collaboration across GAFSP, in particular across financing tracks and across partners.

The CU presented a review of climate, gender, and nutrition in GAFSP's grant-based financing. This included: (i) a review of the 6th and 7th call country-led and PO-led projects, the first ever comparison of the cross-cutting outcomes against these two tracks; (ii) summary results of analysis on climate resilience conducted by CIAT; (iii) an exploration of intersectional projects and activities which address all three cross-cutting outcomes of climate, gender, and nutrition; (iv) and insights from SE consultations on how to better measure, monitor, and mainstream these. The SC acknowledged the breadth and depth of the review, and provided the following feedback and guidance: (i) explore integrated reporting of PrSW and FIF on cross-cutting outcomes; (ii) enhance the analysis, actions, and indicators on gender-sensitivity in project design documents, including on women's representation in POs in country-led projects; (iii) explore the drivers that enable more intersectional projects and activities, including impact of increased co-financing to improve SE bandwidth in addressing triple wins; and (iv) use GAFSP as a partnership platform to build coherence and coordination in how SEs and SC members measure nutrition financing and actions, with the aim of better tracking progress against the new N4G Paris commitments.

The CU presented initial thinking and engagements to foster collaboration across financing tracks and SC members. This included: (i) articulation in the 5Y Program Evaluation and Vision 2030 draft of the gaps and opportunities to collaboration; (ii) challenges to in-country collaboration; (iii) and CU-driven case studies in Cambodia, Laos, and Rwanda to understand and capture existing successes and spur new collaborations. The SC welcomed this open discussion and the initial efforts of the CU to unpack this issue and to strengthen in-country collaboration in some countries. The SC provided the following feedback and guidance: (i) split the approaches into ex-ante actions to facilitate collaboration and ex-post improvements, including through knowledge management to capture lessons and successes in collaboration; (ii) starting with the upcoming call for PO-led proposals, identify and include feasible changes that do not require governance reform; (iii) leverage and empower the TAC in filtering projects that are likely to succeed in collaboration; (iv) use the BIFT pilot to catalyze collaboration between the private and public sector; (v) leverage the fullness of GAFSP actors as champions for collaboration, going beyond SC members, and empowering in-country SE Task Team Leaders (TTLs) and government and PO representatives; and (vi) build on the lessons learned from the UK-funded pilot to enhance collaboration between country-led and PrSW projects, particularly through Advisory Services.

### **Results of GAFSP FCS Portfolio Evaluation**

The CU presented key background information and milestones for the delivery of the inaugural independent cross-portfolio evaluation on GAFSP in Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations (FCS). Key milestones highlighted in the presentation included: (i) the introduction of cross-portfolio evaluations in the 2022 GAFSP M&E Plan as a tool to assess the development effectiveness of

GAFSP and to enhance cross-portfolio learning by undertaking such evaluations every 1-2 years; (ii) the selection of the topic by the Evaluation Working Group in December 2023, and the SC approval of the TOR in April 2024; and (iii) the selection in September 2024 of the consulting team (Syntesia and MDF) through a competitive selection process.

The lead evaluator from Syntesia presented key findings, lessons learned, and recommendations of the cross-portfolio evaluation. The SC provided comments and questions on the draft evaluation, and the lead evaluator from Syntesia provided some responses in the discussion. The SC commended Syntesia for the breadth and quality of the evaluation, noting the high relevance of the topic in GAFSP's strategic positioning of serving underserved regions and populations while managing its risk tolerance. The SC confirmed that FCS countries/regions are precisely where poverty, vulnerability, fragility, extreme hunger overlap.

Key areas of discussion between the SC and Syntesia included the following topics:

- i. The weak institutional capacity of implementing agencies poses a significant risk to project success. This issue requires targeted capacity-building efforts (during preparation of proposals and during implementation) to ensure that implementing agencies can effectively manage and execute project tasks.
- ii. About half of the FCS projects were self-reported to be too ambitious considering the level of fragility/conflict in terms of size (budget) or targets, but also to the type of activities to be carried out (including those related to the three cross-cutting themes). Projects with overly ambitious targets face risks of poor performance ratings and delays in achieving results. For FCS projects, addressing these risks requires setting more realistic targets and timelines to ensure project success.
- iii. Climate shocks were mentioned by almost all those interviewed for the evaluation as one of the main drivers of fragility and conflict and significantly affects implementation performance. GAFSP could undertake a more systemic analysis of how this interacts with structural drivers of fragility/conflict in supported countries, as well as if and how projects focusing on building climate resilience have actually promoted longer-term results in terms of improved capacity of communities to withstand climate shocks (and in turn mitigate fragility/conflict).
- iv. In an FCS context, targeting of women and youth are particularly important. Specific approaches and interventions to make agriculture more attractive to youth are not yet sufficiently developed in projects and could be further emphasized in future Calls. A focus on youth is a good complement to a focus on promoting innovation.
- v. For any future cross-portfolio evaluation work, GAFSP should consider including in the scope both the FIF and the Private Sector Window portfolio. The CU noted that assessing the whole program is certainly the intent of cross-portfolio evaluations as well other analytical work,



and the scope can be expanded in future work if that is the SC's and DC's preferred direction. However, administrative and financial details would need to be confirmed since currently the budgets of the FIF and the Private Sector Window are managed separately, each meant to support their own work.

The CU presented the following next steps to conclude the cross-portfolio evaluation:

- i. Syntesia submits final report (after incorporating comments and discussions at the SC meeting): mid-April 2025
- ii. CU prepares/SC approves a Response Matrix to accompany the final report: mid-May 2025
- iii. Dissemination (GAFSP website, GAFSP Knowledge Forum etc.): To be published on GAFSP website by end of June 2025; other activities in FY26
- iv. Begin discussion on 2<sup>nd</sup> cross-portfolio evaluation: CY26
- v. Begin discussion on possible small Call for Proposals for project level Impact Evaluations: CY26

## **DAY 2 – APRIL 3, 2025**

### **GAFSP Vision 2030**

SC Members thanked the GAFSP Senior Strategy Advisor, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero, and the CU for the extensive and inclusive consultations that were organized around GAFSP's proposed Vision 2030 with SC Members through the existing Evaluation and Strategy Working Group as well as with key external stakeholders.

SC Members recognized both the continued relevance of GAFSP's mission and the Program's track record of delivering impact on which the Vision 2030 strategic planning process can build. Key elements of the proposed Vision 2030 that resonated with SC Members included GAFSP's potential to:

- i. serve as a more effective global platform for sharing knowledge and connecting key agriculture and food security initiatives, in particular those implemented under the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty launched during Brazil's G20 Presidency, the African Union's CAADP post-Malabo process, and other vertical funds;
- ii. maximize the development effectiveness of scarce grant resources by leveraging the Program's expanded financing toolkit to better coordinate long-term investments supported across GAFSP financing tools and Supervising Entities, build public private partnerships, and mobilize additional financial resources from other sources;

- iii. target support for investments and capacity-building towards innovations (institutional, technical, financial), which go beyond activities financed in mainstream development projects, align with strategic priorities set by governments and communities in low-income countries, and deliver co-benefits for development outcomes pursued by GAFSP;
- iv. ensure GAFSP support reaches countries, landscapes, groups, and entities that are highly vulnerable to shocks, especially in contexts affected by fragility, conflict, and violence following the recommendations put forward under GAFSP's Portfolio Evaluation in Fragile and Conflict Situations (2025).

Among GAFSP Contributors, the representative of the United States (US) highlighted that the US administration is currently reviewing its policy priorities, and that the outcome of this process will inform the administration's engagement on the development of the new GAFSP Strategic Plan (2025-2030) moving forward. Meanwhile, the representative of Canada noted that the country is currently under an election period with a caretaker government and could therefore only provide limited comments on the proposed Vision 2030. The representative of Spain stressed that work remains to be done in GAFSP's external representation and repositioning at the highest political level in global and regional fora.

A joint statement was prepared by the Regional Representatives from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa, which has been included in Annex IV of the Minutes. Regional Representatives requested that under its future Strategic Plan GAFSP (i) clarifies questions raised by GAFSP's 5 Year Program Evaluation around the mode of designation of Regional Representatives; (ii) considers regional approaches to food and nutrition security and explores potential synergies with existing regional platforms; and (iii) takes into account the disruptive impact of international trade policy measures implemented in recent months on agricultural production structures and global value chains for agricultural products, inputs, equipment, which can be expected to lead to important changes in food costs, prices, and trade flows.

A joint statement was also prepared by the representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the Steering Committee, which has been included in Annex V of the Minutes. In their statement, CSO Members welcomed in particular the proposed Vision 2030's focus on (i) empowering producer organizations through a programmatic approach that supports their development and sustainability; (ii) supporting agro-ecological approaches as viable solutions to contribute towards more climate resilient and sustainable food systems; and (iii) reaching young farmers and women smallholders. They also expressed a desire to consider funding arrangements for CSO Members that go beyond the current interim arrangements, which constrains CSO Members' participation in the Program.

The SC agreed on a "Vision 2030" statement that will be used as a conceptual framework to develop a new feasible and actionable GAFSP Strategic Plan through costed scenarios for the 2025-2030 period. While noting the challenging resource context, the Steering Committee expressed strong

support for GAFSP's ambitions to maximize collective impact, synergies, and integration of approaches and investments in resilient agrifood systems at the country and regional levels and improve the effectiveness of increasingly scarce resources for longer-term investments in food and nutrition security. Depending on future resource availability, GAFSP support would seek to more effectively leverage its funding tools and partnerships to catalyze more public and private investments into agriculture and agri-food value chains.

### **BIFT Pilot Update**

The session updated SC members on the progress made under the BIFT pilot with respect to key implementation milestones. Key implementation milestones highlighted by the CU included (i) the official launch of the BIFT pilot, including a dedicated [BIFT pilot website](#), on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2024, following the SC approval of the BIFT pilot package in May; and (ii) the establishment and on-boarding of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the BIFT following a competitive selection process. The BIFT pilot website hosts all relevant information on the pilot, including the call documents, an [explainer video](#), and contact details for each SE focal point. Regarding proposal submissions under the BIFT pilot, the first initial proposal has been submitted to the CU by ADB. The proposals by IFAD and AFDB are in advanced preparation stages and expected to be submitted to the CU within the next two months. IDB Invest informed the SC it will not participate in the pilot due to the limited geographical scope of countries eligible under the BIFT pilot and current IDB Invest business needs, whereas IFC is still assessing options under the BIFT pilot.

The Co-Chairs of the TAC-BIFT provided the SC with an overview of the TAC's role, its composition, and the methodology developed for the evaluation and scoring of BIFT proposals. The TAC-BIFT comprises 10 members, including the Co-Chairs, and is supported by a research assistant. Members of the TAC-BIFT bring diverse technical expertise and regional representation. The Co-Chairs will review all proposals to ensure alignment with the guidelines governing the BIFT pilot, while assigning proposals to a sub-set of TAC members for an in-depth review. All TAC members completed an onboarding session with CU and participated in introductory calls to understand each other's backgrounds, areas of expertise, and contributions to the pilot. A scoring methodology has also been developed to guide the evaluation process. TAC-BIFT members are tasked to document all the learning generated during the review process to guide BIFT's future direction.

The SEs previewed their BIFT pilot proposals with the SC. IFAD presented an advanced design of the Farmers Organization platform, the ADB presented the Natural Capital Fund (NCF) and AFDB the Agro- Inputs Risk Sharing Facility. It was agreed that the CU would compile technical questions raised by SC Members and share them with the SEs for their consideration and response, during the development of their BIFT proposals. They have been included in Annex VI of the Minutes.

## CSO Update

The CU presented key outcomes from the Producer Organizations Stocktaking Meeting (POSM) held in Rome from February 25–27, 2025 which represents GAFSP's milestone knowledge event in FY25. The presentation highlighted the diversity of Producer Organizations (POs) within the GAFSP portfolio, spanning from small local groups to large federations with varying maturity levels and governance structures. POs are actively involved in areas such as production support, post-harvest processing, market access, financial services, capacity building, and the promotion of climate resilience and digital solutions. Their contributions have significantly supported improved nutrition, women's empowerment, access to rural finance, climate adaptation, and knowledge sharing.

While POs demonstrate strong grassroots governance, member service provision, and innovative financial models, they face persistent challenges with respect to financial sustainability, market access, and scaling of innovations. Additional barriers include bureaucratic procedures at the level of GAFSP and its SEs that are not tailored to POs, limited internal capacities for project preparation and monitoring, and tight timelines. Recommendations were made to further tailor processes based on POs' maturity, simplify procedures, invest in institutional and financial capacity building, enhance training on business planning, strengthen partnerships with the private sector, and build PO assets, particularly in post-harvest and storage.

GAFSP's CSO Liaison Officer reported on Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) activities under the approved FY25 work plan and budget. AFA and ROPPA organized major consultations on key GAFSP initiatives, and AAUSA, AFA, and ROPPA attended key global events (COP29, FFF, CFS52, and POSM), promoting the GAFSP PO-led model as a best practice in financing food security and climate actions. These engagements reaffirmed the importance of directly funding POs and underscored the strategic role CSOs play in the transformation of food systems globally.

AFA chose not to apply for the 8th Call for PO-led Proposals as it is not able to apply under existing eligibility arrangements outlined in [Paragraph 8 and 9 of the GAFSP Operations Manual](#), but it remains involved in related discussions. Pacific Farmer Organizations (PFO) was confirmed as the new Asian CSO Member on the SC, with appointments for the Northern and African CSO Members expected by May '25 and September '25, respectively. Acknowledgment was given to CSOs for their 15 years of engagement with GAFSP. To ensure continuity, current CSO Members on the SC proposed a handover session at the next SC meeting.

Overall, the Steering Committee appreciated the POSM outcomes and the strategic contributions of POs and CSOs. The UK representative requested a note detailing the appointment process for new CSO Members on the SC once completed. AAUSA acknowledged GAFSP as an inclusive space and highlighted the need to go beyond the temporary financing modality to support the work of CSO Members on the SC.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Call for PO-led Proposals

The CU presented the main aspects of the Decision Note on the 8th Call for PO-led Proposals, emphasizing its alignment with GAFSP's proposed Vision 2030 and its overarching objectives to strengthen linkages across different GASFP financing tracks, foster greater engagement with private sector actors, and support POs in the development of long-term business strategies and plans.

To streamline the process and incentivize merit-based competition, the Call will implement a single, unified funding envelope for both national and regional POs. The proposed funding ceiling per proposal is set at \$2.5 million for national POs and \$4 million for regional POs, with a total indicative budget envelope of \$38 million set aside by the SC for Call, excluding SE fees.

During the discussion, there was widespread support for funding PO-led proposals under GAFSP's Grant-based Financing Track and the key parameters laid out in the Decision Note. Several SC Members emphasized the importance of maintaining flexibility within the indicative funding envelope in order to accommodate additional high-quality proposals recommended by TAC. At the same time, concerns were raised regarding the timeline, with some members advocating for a shorter and simpler process. A number of SC Members also questioned the eligibility criteria for regional POs, particularly those based in non IDA countries, and proposed revisiting the current arrangements outlined in the GAFSP Operations Manual to enable broader participation. The need for a clearer and more precise definition of Regional Producer Organizations (RPOs) was also highlighted, with a request to ensure that only genuinely regional and farmer-led organizations are prioritized.

The Steering Committee endorsed the three main decision points put forward in the Decision Note. The CU committed to refining the Call guidelines, including revisiting the definition of RPOs and exploring ways to streamline the process and timeline without compromising the quality of future proposals. The indicative budget envelope of \$38 million was approved, with flexibility to potentially increase the envelope based on quality proposals recommended by the TAC. Finally, it was agreed that further discussions would be held with the SC and the Trustee regarding the potential expansion of eligibility criteria to include RPOs based in non-IDA countries under future calls for PO-led proposals under GAFSP's Grant-based Financing Track.

## Joint GAFSP Portfolio Update

A first joint portfolio update was presented to the SC by the GAFSP Program Manager, which comprised both GAFSP's Grant-based Financing Track and the PrSW.

As of December 31, 2024, GAFSP manages a \$2.44 billion portfolio, with 77% allocated under GAFSP's Grant-based Financing Track (GBFT) and 23% under the PrSW. Most funding—around 60%—is directed to Africa, with additional investments in Asia and Latin America & the Caribbean. Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh receive notable support across both funding tracks. While



this suggests potential for cross-track collaboration, differences in timing, commodities and value chains, and geographic focus limit potential entry points. GAFSP's portfolio targets regions with moderate to high food insecurity and has a strong presence in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCS), with the PrSW showing a growing relative share in these areas. A recent uptick in non-FCS projects for the GBFT is attributed to PO-led initiatives. Meanwhile, PrSW projects have faced more cancellations due to growing external risks. Disbursements under grant-based projects have been trending upward. They are expected to accelerate as more 6th and 7th Call projects move into full implementation. Efficiency has also improved, particularly in project approval and disbursement timelines under the 7th Call. However, PO-led projects continue to experience delays similar to country-led projects, which is significant given their relatively short duration (3–4 year). GAFSP also plays a key role in mobilizing co-financing, with an average co-financing ratio of 1:1.9 for grants and a leverage ratio of 1:6.3 for the PrSW. Other results presented included farmers reached, climate-smart support provided, and jobs created.

### **Key Follow-Up Actions and Next SC Meeting Agenda**

The CU highlighted the key follow-up actions, which reflect outcomes of the SC Meeting's discussions and decisions. They included sharing with the SC (i) the package of documents for the 8<sup>th</sup> Call for PO-led Proposals taking into account the comments received during the SC Meeting (to be sent by April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025), (ii) a survey (to be sent by April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025) for collecting SC Member inputs on the date and location for the next joint in-person meeting of the GAFSP SC and PrSW Donor Committee, and (iii) an updated terms of reference for the Evaluation and Strategy Working Group and the Senior Strategy Advisor role (to be sent by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025). The Chair of the SC encouraged all SC Members to actively participate in the discussions around the operational implications of different budget scenarios for the next GAFSP Strategic Plan (2025-2030), which will be managed through the Evaluation and Strategy Working Group and take into account the existing aid environment.

## Annex I: Minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Virtual GAFSP SC Pre-Meeting

### Welcome, introduction of new participants and adoption of agenda

The Chair of the SC, Mr. James Catto, welcomed participants and explained that the purpose of the pre-meeting would be to (i) preview and collect SC Members' feedback on the proposed Vision 2030; and (ii) address administrative agenda items in advance of the in-person SC meeting in Washington DC on April 2-3. The Chair noted the following changes in the composition of the SC:

CONSTITUENCY	REPRESENTATIVE	CHANGE(S)
Regional Representatives	Anglophone Africa	Agnes Kalibata has resumed her role as SC Member; while Boaz Keizire continues to serve as alternate
	Francophone Africa	Youssof Diallo replaces Mamou Ehui as alternate for Francophone Africa
	Latin America & Caribbean	Dr. Francisco Jose Mayorga Balladares replaces Melvin Fernando Quiros Romero as SC Member
SEs	IDB	Jianjun Xu replaces Santiago Monroy Taborda as SC Member, while Pedro Martel will continue to serve as IDB's alternate
CSOs	ActionAid	Arianna Kandel has stepped down from her role as alternate; no replacement has been announced yet
	ROPFA	Nadjirou Sall replaces Ibrahima Coulibaly as SC Member, while Sessi Rostaing Akoha will continue to serve as ROPFA's alternate
Other	GAFSP PrSW Secretariat	Zanele Hlatshwayo has joined the PrSW Secretariat as the new Deputy Program Manager
	Trustee	Laurent Sebastien Achi replaces Karen Pillay as Senior Financial Officer for GAFSP

The SC formally endorsed the agenda set for the meeting.

## PREVIEW OF VISION 2030

The Coordination Unit (CU) presented the key aspects of the proposed Vision 2030 outlined in the draft Decision Note, which was shared with SC Members in advance of the virtual pre-meeting. SC Members expressed their thanks to the Coordination Unit (CU) and Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero (GAFSP Senior Strategy Advisor) for the consultations and outreach conducted since the May '24 SC Meeting in Cambodia. SC Members broadly supported the draft Vision 2030 concept, while acknowledging that its ambitions may need to be scaled down in light of the difficult and constrained aid environment. SC Members therefore welcomed the preparation of an implementation and resource mobilization plan later in the calendar year, which will have to account for the new aid environment and reflect strategic choices made by the SC in line with GAFSP's comparative advantages.

Vision 2030-focused questions and comments raised by SC Members focused around (i) the linkages with the recommendations made under the 5 Year Program Evaluation and other GAFSP studies; (ii) the modalities for realizing the “graduation” theory of change underpinning Vision 2030; (iii) the modalities for building broad-based ownership, synergies, and cooperation across the Program at global, regional, and country-level; (iv) the scope and type of innovations supported under Vision 2030 as well as the mechanisms for accelerating and scaling-up their adoption; (v) the profile of countries targeted under different financing tracks under Vision 2030 (IDA only and/or IDA blend), including GAFSP's proposed intervention model in contexts affected by fragility, conflict, and violence; (vi) the modalities for leveraging and catalyzing public policy reforms and additional financing from different sources, including bilateral funding sources; (vii) the capacity building requirements for countries and food systems; (viii) GAFSP's role as a global platform, which convenes different stakeholders, shares knowledge and learning, and collaborates with a broad set of partners and initiatives, including the CAADP post-Malabo process launched by the AU.

The CU agreed to take written comments from SC Members on the draft Vision 2030 Decision Note until Monday March 17, ahead of the in-person SC meeting which will be held April 2-3, 2025.

## GAFSP FINANCIAL STATUS

The Trustee provided an update on GAFSP's Financial Status. As of December 31, 2024, the availability of funds under the GAFSP Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) to support Steering Committee decisions amounted to \$128.4 million. SC Members were keen to clarify how much of these funds would be available for the next call for PO-led proposals. The Chair noted that a decision to launch a new call for PO-led proposals had been made during the May '24 SC Meeting in Cambodia. The CU confirmed that it will propose a budget envelope to be set aside by the SC for the new call for the in-person SC Meeting in Washington DC on April 2-3, 2025. The CU also clarified that the \$75 million already set aside for BIFT and to be allocated by June 30, 2026 is already accounted for in the \$128.4 million currently available to the SC. It also emphasized that the

final decision on funds to be set aside for the call for PO-led proposals rested squarely with the SC. Finally, the regional representative for Asia on the SC inquired whether the value of contributions made by the donors since the inception could be adjusted for inflation. The SC leadership and CU agreed to explore with the Trustee how this request could potentially be accommodated.

The PrSW Secretariat presented an overview of contributions and receipts from 6 donors as of December 31, 2024. The presentation highlighted the net availability of \$181 million for projects and \$15.9 million for advisory services. An explanation was provided about the different line items presented, including the costs covered by the administrative fee. The PrSW Secretariat explained it had started FY25 with pipeline of about \$100 million, but some project had dropped. As a result, the current pipeline is about \$60-\$70 million and a large share is not expected to be delivered until next FY with Board approval of \$50 million for the investment side. At the next Donor Committee meeting, a discussion on the options and the pipeline will be facilitated by the PrSW Secretariat.

### **Preview of In-Person Steering Committee Meeting Agenda**

The CU presented the main agenda items for the in-person SC Meeting, which will take place in Washington DC on April 2-3, 2025. The agenda for the PrSW Donor Committee Meeting, which will precede the SC Meeting and take place on April 1 in Washington DC, will be shared separately with members of the PrSW Donor Committee.

Annex II: List of Participants in March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Virtual GAFSP SC Pre-Meeting

	Last Name	First Name	Country/Organization
Chair			
1	Catto	James	Director, International Development Policy, US Treasury, GAFSP Chair
Contributors			
2	Lynn	Fiona	Australia
3	Smart	Rebecca	Canada
4	Templer	Adam	Canada
5	Watkins	Neil	Gates Foundation
6	Brix	Jan	Germany
7	Bruentrup-Seidemann	Sabine	Germany
8	Nyman	Jessica	Norway
9	Fernandez Sanchez	Monica	Spain
10	Yanez Minondo	Blanca	Spain
11	Huggins	Bridget	United Kingdom
12	Save	Radio	United Kingdom
13	Shaps	Caz	United Kingdom
14	Singer	Jason	United States
Regional Representatives			
15	Munyeneh	Emmanuel Plingloh	Africa
16	Haryadi	FNU	Asia
17	Pokharel	Champak	Asia
18	Saysanavongphet	Viphasouk (Pele)	Asia
19	Huerzeler	Benedikt	ECA



20	Mayorga	Francisco Jose	LAC
21	Ghaffar	Jeehan Abdul	MENA
Representatives of Contributors in Non-Voting Status			
22	Janszen	Agnes	Netherlands
Supervising Entities (SEs)			
23	Arboleda	Leah	ADB
24	Kimura	Shingo	ADB
25	Manalo	Charmaine	ADB
26	Bdioui	Illyes	AfDB
27	Boahen	Philip	AfDB
28	Diallo	Aissata	AfDB
29	Masopeh	Lady Mardell	AfDB
30	Otabil	Elder Prince Kwesi	AfDB
31	Labella	Patrizia	FAO
32	Xu	Jianjun	IADB
33	Jacquet	Bruno	IADB
34	Basu	Enika	IFAD
35	Mancini	Marc Cortadellas	IFAD
36	Grosclaude	Marianne	WB
37	Simons	Sarah	WB
38	Ramachandran	Venkat	WB
39	Law	Ana	WFP
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)			
40	Hertzler	Doug	ActionAid USA
41	Rostaing Akoha	Sessi	ROPPE

GAFSP Coordination Unit			
42	Hayward	Natasha	GAFSP Program Manager
43	Van der Celen	Philip	GAFSP Deputy Program Manager
44	Alamzai	Amanullah	Coordination Unit
45	Calixto	Silvana	Coordination Unit
46	Dizon	Felipe	Coordination Unit
47	Ferrero	Amb. Gabriel	Coordination Unit
48	Guerra	Alberta	Coordination Unit
49	Hoberg	Yurie	Coordination Unit
50	Murphy-Mcgreevey	Clare Jessica	Coordination Unit
51	Sakhuja	Davinder	Coordination Unit
52	Usman	Muhammed	Coordination Unit
53	Yang	Shijie	Coordination Unit
54	Zelege	Alemayehu	Coordination Unit
GAFSP Private Sector Window Secretariat			
55	Shah	Niraj	PrSW Program Manager
56	Hlatshwayo	Zanele	PrSW Deputy Program Manager
57	Berman	Daphna	PrSW Secretariat
58	Chaudhary	Bheeshm	PrSW Secretariat
59	Maiztegui	Josefina	PrSW Secretariat
60	Neelamraju	Kalyan	PrSW Secretariat
61	Rast	Karoline	PrSW Secretariat
GAFSP Trustee /Legal			
62	Dolinin	Dmytro	Legal

63	Pardo	Maria Lourdes	Legal
64	Achi	Laurant	Trustee
65	Srinivasan	Vijayalakshmi	Trustee

### Annex III: List of Participants in April 2-3, 2025 In-Person GAFSP SC Meeting

#### 3.1. List of In-Person Participants

	Last Name	First Name	Country/Organization
Co-Chair			
1	Catto	James	Director, International Development Policy, US Treasury, GAFSP Chair
Donors			
2	Watkins	Neil	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
3	Brix	Jan	Germany
4	Nyman	Jessica	Norway
5	Fernandez Sanchez	Monica	Spain
6	Yanez Minondo	Blanca	Spain
7	Haugen	Jen	United Kingdom
8	Save	Radio	United Kingdom
9	Singer	Jason	United States
Regional Representatives			
10	Tenkouano	Abdou	Africa
11	Haryadi	FNU	Asia
12	Saysanavongphet	Viphasouk (Pele)	Asia
13	Mayorga	Francisco Jose	LAC

14	Ghaffar	Jeihan Abdul	MENA
Donor Representatives in Non-Voting Status			
15	Janszen	Agnes	Netherlands
Supervising Entities (SEs)			
16	Iyer	Narayan	ADB
17	Kimura	Shingo	ADB
18	Zhang	Qingfeng	ADB
19	Bataba	Desiree	AfDB
20	Bdioui	ilyes	AfDB
21	Boahen	Philip	AfDB
22	Mude	Andrew	AfDB
23	Ochai	Sule	AfDB
24	Shortley	Tim	AfDB
25	Santos	Nuno	FAO
26	Veillerette	Benoist	FAO
27	Jacquet	Bruno	IADB
28	Pedroza	Paola	IADB
29	Xu	Jianjun	IADB
30	Basu	Enika	IFAD
31	Brown	Donal	IFAD
32	Grosclaude	Marianne	WB
33	Shetty	Shobha	WB
34	Simons	Sarah	WB
35	Law	Ana	WFP
36	Renart	Jordi	WFP

37	Samkange	Stanlake	WFP
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)			
38	Hertzler	Doug	ActionAid USA
39	Rebagay	Lany	AFA
40	Tseden-ish	Altantuya	NAMAC
41	Rostaing Akoha	Sessi	ROPFA
GAFSP Coordination Unit			
42	Hayward	Natasha	GAFSP Program Manager
43	Van der Celen	Philip	GAFSP Deputy Program Manager
44	Alamzai	Amanullah	Coordination Unit
45	Calixto	Silvana	Coordination Unit
46	Dizon	Felipe	Coordination Unit
47	Ferrero	Amb. Gabriel	Coordination Unit
48	Fitzgerald	Nora	Coordination Unit
49	Guerra	Alberta	Coordination Unit
50	Haidary	Mariam	Coordination Unit
51	Hoberg	Yurie	Coordination Unit
52	Magarotto	Cecilia	Coordination Unit
53	Murphy-Mcgreevey	Clare Jessica	Coordination Unit
54	Sakhuja	Davinder	Coordination Unit
55	Usman	Muhammed	Coordination Unit
56	Yang	Shijie	Coordination Unit
57	Zelege	Alemayehu	Coordination Unit
GAFSP Private Sector Window Secretariat			
58	Shah	Niraj	PrSW Program Manager



59	Hlatshwayo	Zanele	PrSW Deputy Program Manager
60	Abboud	Maddison	PrSW Secretariat
61	Berman	Daphna	PrSW Secretariat
62	Chaudhary	Bheeshm	PrSW Secretariat
63	Ehlers	Christina	PrSW Secretariat
64	Li	Ana Zhu	PrSW Secretariat
65	Maiztegui	Josefina	PrSW Secretariat
66	Neelamraju	Kalyan	PrSW Secretariat
67	Rast	Karoline	PrSW Secretariat
GAFSP Trustee /Legal			
68	Pardo	Maria Lourdes	Legal
69	Achi	Laurant	Trustee
External Invitees			
70	Badiane	Ousmane	African Union Commission
71	Bahiigwa	Godfrey	African Union Commission
72	Diop	Hamady	African Union Commission
73	Gopolan	Prasad	BIFT TAC
74	Tonkonogy	Bella	Climate Policy Initiative
75	Umunay	Peter	Global Environment Facility
76	Farenholtz	Philipp	IFC
77	Park	Joon Young	IFC
78	Slaibi	Ahmad	IFC
79	Bryan	Elizabeth Basauri	IFPRI
80	Gautam	Madur	IFPRI

81	Gandison	Maria	Syntesia/MDF Consulting Team
82	Sutton	William	World Bank
83	Diallo	Mamadou	World Bank Advisor to Executive Director EDS13
84	Tavares	Harold	World Bank Executive Director EDS13
85	Magagula	Lonkhululeko	Alternate Executive Director EDS14

### 3.2. List of Virtual Participants

	Last Name	First Name	Country/Organization
Donors			
1	Lynn	Fiona	Australia
2	Bahalim	Ammad	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
3	Smart	Rebecca	Canada
4	Templer	Adam	Canada
5	Bruentrup-Seidemann	Sabine	Germany
6	Huggins	Bridget	United Kingdom
7	Shaps	Caz	United Kingdom
Regional Representatives			
8	Pokharel	Champak	Asia
9	Huerzeler	Benedikt	ECA
Supervising Entities (SEs)			
10	Fregene	Martin	AfDB
11	Labella	Patrizia	FAO
12	Toe	Chris	WFP

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)			
13	Ouedraogo	Ousseini	ROPPA
14	Sall	Nadjirou	ROPPA
GAFSP Coordination Unit			
15	Chirag-Zade	Rufiz	Coordination Unit
16	Pape-Christiansen	Andrea	Coordination Unit
17	Ho	Ginny	Coordination Unit
18	Mecagni	Laura	Coordination Unit
External Invitees			
19	Granados	H.E. Eva	State Secretary for International Cooperation of Spain and Co-Chair of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty
20	Mayaki	Dr. Ibrahim	African Union Special Envoy For Food Systems
21	Jezile	Amb. Nosipho	Chair of the Committee on World Food Security
22	Ramasodi	Mooketsa	Director General of the Department of Agriculture of South Africa
23	Alicia	Stevens	Office of the Director General of the Department of Agriculture of South Africa
24	Ubalijoro	Eliane	CEO, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)
25	Gitonga	Sally	BIFT TAC
26	Rubio	Frank	IFAD

## **Annex IV: Joint Statement prepared by the Regional Representatives Representing Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and Middle East and North Africa on GAFSP Vision 2030**

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) plays a crucial role in improving agricultural productivity, including the performance of smallholder farmers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and food and nutrition security in developing countries. Its contribution is even more critical given the strong interlinkages between poverty and food security, the alarming rise in global challenges including water scarcity, and the urgent need to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1 and 2).

Agricultural productivity, food insecurity, and malnutrition remain major concerns across many of our countries. The number of people facing acute food insecurity has more than doubled in the past five years, surpassing 280 million in 2023<sup>1</sup>. Meanwhile, domestic food price inflation remains high, with 78.9% of low-income countries experiencing inflation rates above 5%.<sup>2</sup> Gains made over the years were short-lived and to some extent reversed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In many low-income and conflict-affected countries, agricultural productivity remains low due to underinvestment in the sector, limited irrigation, restricted access to financing, low adoption of commercial inputs, and persistent structural barriers including access to finance and market. These challenges are further exacerbated by climate change, conflicts, restrictive trade policies, inflation, and food price volatility—factors that not only constrain current productivity but also threaten future gains, thereby deepening food insecurity.

Addressing these systemic challenges requires a long-term, holistic approach that leverages partnerships and fosters collaboration with the private sector to drive sustainable solutions in food security and nutrition while also integrating emerging technologies to fast-track and where possible increase production.

### **Vision 2030**

Given the competing demands and challenges facing the flow of development assistance, it is essential to position GAFSP as a collaborator of long-term development and systemic change in global agriculture and food security initiative. Strengthening its narrative around its comparative advantages—grounded in its proven impact and results—will be key. GAFSP Vision 2030 will play a pivotal role in reinforcing its positioning and enhancing the resilience of its beneficiaries to crises as they arise. At the same time, it should solidify GAFSP's identity as a ready-to-deploy, high-impact instrument with a strong value proposition in anticipation of a successful and ambitious replenishment.

We expect GAFSP Vision 2030 to unlock its full potential as a platform that maximizes collective impact, fosters complementarities and synergies, and enhances collaboration and integration of

approaches and investments at both country and regional levels. This will be instrumental in supporting whole-of-government and whole-of-society efforts to transform agrifood systems.

We welcome efforts to strengthen GAFSP's relevance as a global platform and integration program that drives innovative agrifood systems transformations. In particular, we support its role in incentivizing and supporting integrated, country-owned policies and programs, as well as multi-stakeholder-led processes and investments.

Additionally, we seek further clarity on how the ongoing Vision 2030 strategic planning process—focused on defining GAFSP's strategic objectives, priorities, and operating principles for the 2025–2030 period—is shaping the Steering Committee's vision for funding innovative projects. Issues pertaining to the Governance of the GAFSP, specifically those touching on the mode of designation of regional representatives, may have to be clarified.

## Themes

**Women Economic Empowerment:** We welcome the progress in mainstreaming women's economic empowerment, climate resilience, and nutrition security in GAFSP's interventions. However, it remains crucial to close the gender gap and reinforce the connection between climate resilience and women's empowerment. This includes recognizing women as leaders and catalysts for positive change within their communities and ensuring transformative, gender-responsive interventions. Additionally, women's economic empowerment—alongside youth inclusion—should be prioritized in upcoming calls for proposal. Lastly, there is a need to enhance the focus on measurable impact and tangible results.

**Fragile and Conflict Situations (FCS):** We welcome GAFSP's positive contributions in FCS and the institutionalization of fragility- and conflict-sensitive approaches and tools. We support leveraging GAFSP as partnership and knowledge-sharing platforms to set strategic priorities and exchange best practices for agriculture and food security engagements. Additionally, we welcome the recommendations of the GAFSP Portfolio Evaluation in FCS and advocate for the prioritization of FCS with calls open to all eligible countries. Given the resource constraints in FCS, greater clarity is needed on how these contexts will be assessed differently from non-FCS settings—an issue that has historically posed challenges and was a key factor in establishing FCS-specific calls for proposals.

**Business Investment Financing Track (BIFT):** We welcome GAFSP's support for blended concessional finance instruments to foster innovative business models and financial solutions. These would improve access to finance and technologies for sustainable investments. Given the geographic nature of targeted recipient countries of GAFSP projects, which are highly exposed to climate change and natural disasters, it is mandatory to have an inclusive and efficient climate and nature de-risking strategy and implementation, to minimize the impact of these hazards and at the same time, to ensure the sustainability of the investments of POs and agribusiness MSMEs.



Finally, we would like to thank GAFSP donors for their continuous support and we look forward to building on the progress made so far to achieve Vision 2030. This will also be possible through an ambitious GAFSP replenishment.

#### **Annex V: Joint Statement prepared by the CSO Members on GAFSP Vision 2030**

On behalf of the CSOs SC members, we would like to appreciate the work done to achieve this Vision 2030. It has been a long journey and inclusive process, and we'd like to appreciate the opportunities we have had to give inputs and to acknowledge that most of our points are now reflected in the Vision. We'd like to thank the Special Advisor, Gabriel Ferrero, for his availability and openness to listen to our comments and suggestions.

We reiterate that GAFSP is still extremely relevant in the agricultural development sphere and can play a tremendous role in the Zero Hunger perspective as well as poverty reduction. The world is not on track on achieving SDG2 and we have to maximize the existing resources and best practices to accelerate progress on food security and nutrition as well as food sovereignty, in the context of lessons from pandemic which showed the importance of community-based/short value-chain.

We renew our commitment to the GAFSP, and we hope that in the next five years GAFSP will strengthen its work and operations to accelerate efforts in transforming the agrifood system that will ensure healthy food for all for today and future generations, while healing the planet.

The Vision 2030 is ambitious, but this is exactly what we need now, ambition to leverage good results. With its ambition, Vision 2030 will help transcend barriers that are financial, political, ideological and temporary, and keep the current needs of people living in poverty and food insecurity at the top of the agenda. Ambition to increase direct financing to POs in a quick and simpler modality anchored on trust, transparency and efficiency. As CSO representatives, our participation has been meaningful at the same time challenging. As we move forward with Vision 2030, we hope that we can move beyond the interim arrangements and that bottlenecks/constraints which hinder CSOs full participation can be addressed.

We therefore welcome Vision 2030, particularly its clear focus to empowering POs in a programmatic approach leading to their development and sustainability. We'll support this Vision 2030 as a further incentive to support agroecological approaches as viable solutions to contribute towards a climate resilient and sustainable food system. We'll also continue to promote GAFSP and its Vision 2030 in that it supports further involvement of young farmers and women along with promoting their rights on productive resources.