CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2020-2023
Zero Draft

A. CFS VISION AND OBJECTIVES (“Standing” Section)

A.1. CFS Vision:

CFS “constitutes the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring FSN for all human beings. CFS strives for a world free from hunger where countries implement the voluntary guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security”.

A.2. CFS overall objective:

CFS aims at eliminating hunger and malnutrition through improved policy convergence/coherence at global level, which leads to strengthened actions at national and regional levels.

All activities in the MYPoW are designed, planned and implemented to promote: resilience of livelihoods; attention to the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition; a multi-sectoral inclusive and participatory approach; evidence-based decision-making; environmental, economic and social sustainability; gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and women’s empowerment in the context of FSN.

B. THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES (“Strategic” section)

B.1. THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS

Strategic Objective 1 – PLATFORM
Leverage the convening power as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to discuss the FSN situation and coordinate collective action at all levels.

Output 1.1. Inclusive discussions

Inclusive discussions on FSN developments, trends and emerging and critical issues can be expressed through conclusions, reports, Chairperson’s summaries and other ways.

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1 The content and structure of the Zero Draft MYPoW are based on the provisions included in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report and take into account the guidance provided by the Advisory Group at the 4 March 2019 meeting and the decisions of the Bureau at the 6 March 2019 meeting. As agreed by the Bureau, proposals for thematic workstreams have been summarized and edited by the CFS Secretariat and are presented to CFS Members and Participants for their feedback and comments at the Second Open Meeting on 17 April 2019.
1.1.1. Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global narrative towards 2030

Ten years after its reform, the CFS wishes to take stock of what it has done with the contribution of the HLPE with a view to informing future CFS actions towards the achievement of FSN for all in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The HLPE will produce a stocktaking analysis, articulating the findings of its previous publications, updated as appropriate, in a coherent narrative around FSN and sustainable development.

The objective of this report is not to do a summary of all the previous HLPE reports but to elaborate in a forward-looking perspective a global narrative on FSN, enlightened by previous HLPE publications and considering the recent developments of knowledge on FSN. This narrative should reflect the current state of knowledge, highlighting the main areas of consensus or controversy, as well as the major challenges, gaps or uncertainties.

2020 will be a milestone in the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with only ten years left before the 2030 deadline. Such a report will help promote strategic guidance towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The objectives of this activity and the expected contribution to future work of CFS will include:

- Highlighting, using concrete examples, the pathways through which the CFS policy recommendations built on those reports have contributed or could contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda, of its goals and targets, at different scales;
- Informing the preparation of future CFS contributions to the HLPF, starting from 2021 (pending the UN General Assembly decision on the content of future reviews, expected in September 2019);
- Identifying the main factors affecting FSN that have not been considered so far and that deserve more attention to inform future discussions towards the preparation of future CFS MYPOWs.

The analysis will be framed within the CFS vision and take into account the perspective of the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition as a way to define the actual and potential relevance of CFS and HLPE products.

**Strategic Objective 2 – POLICY**

Develop voluntary global policy guidance for policy convergence and coherence to achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

**Output 2.1: Global policy guidance**

Delivered through the preparation of negotiated policy products (voluntary guidelines, principles or other policy frameworks) and recommendations on strategic topics.

**2.1.1. Food Systems and Nutrition (SDG 2)**

Combatting malnutrition in all its forms – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity – is one of the greatest global challenges that countries face today. Urgent actions are needed to address these challenges and the negative impact of malnutrition.
It is key to promote the policy changes needed for reshaping food systems to improve nutrition and enable healthy diets, bearing in mind the importance of improving economic, social and environmental sustainability of food systems.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is leading a policy process which is expected to result in Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition to be presented for endorsement in October 2020. The preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines is informed by the scientific evidence provided by the report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) on Nutrition and Food Systems.

The Voluntary Guidelines are intended to be a reference document that provides guidance mainly to governments, as well as to their partners and other stakeholders, on appropriate policies, investments and institutional arrangements needed to address the key causes of malnutrition in all its forms.

The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition will result from an inclusive consultative process open to all relevant and interested stakeholders. A comprehensive and systemic approach will be followed with a view to addressing the existing policy fragmentation between relevant sectors with special emphasis on the food, agriculture and health sectors, while also addressing livelihood and sustainability challenges.

2.1.2. Agroecological approaches and other innovations (SDG 2 <-> SDG 12)

Innovation has been a major engine for agriculture transformation in the past decades and will be pivotal to address the needs of a rapidly growing population and the increased pressure over natural resources (including biodiversity, land and water) in a context of climate change. Agroecology and other innovative approaches, practices and technologies can play a critical role to strengthen sustainable agriculture and food systems in order to successfully combat hunger, malnutrition and poverty and contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda.

Building sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition will require not only to develop new knowledge and technologies but also: to fill the technology gaps; to facilitate the effective access and use of existing technologies; and to develop context-specific solutions, adapted to local food systems and local ecosystems.

Agroecology, described simultaneously as a science, a set of practices and a social movement, is an important example of such holistic innovative approaches combining science and traditional knowledge systems, technologies and ecological processes, and involving all the relevant stakeholders in inclusive, participative and innovative governance mechanisms.

The workstream is expected to:

- explore the potential contribution of agroecological and other innovative approaches, practices and technologies to creating sustainable food systems that contribute to food security and nutrition.

- address sustainability of food systems and their nutritional outcomes.

- examine the limitations and potential risks of innovative approaches for FSN, human health, livelihoods and the environment. Confronted by major environmental, economic and social challenges, policy-makers need to understand how to optimize and scale-up the contributions of
agroecological and other innovative approaches, practices and technologies, while harnessing these potential associated risks.

After the HLPE report is launched in July 2019, the CFS will conduct a policy convergence process that leads to the CFS Policy Recommendations.

2.1.3. Gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition (SDG2 <-> SDG 5)

Gender inequality is the most pervasive form of inequality around the world. Gender-based inequalities place women and girls at a disadvantage in every sphere of life and every level of income. In accordance with the agreed SDG framework, it is therefore necessary for CFS to adopt a dual approach where efforts towards systematically mainstreaming a gender perspective in all CFS products and activities are complemented and reinforced by a dedicated workstream for increased impact. This will enable CFS to address the specific gaps and problems in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment and identify transformative interventions that can eliminate the structural discrimination against women and girls for improved food security and nutrition.

In view of the important role women play in family farming as well as in securing household food security and nutrition, the empowerment of women is also a priority of the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The workstream will therefore support the implementation of both Decades. Establishing complementarities and synergies especially with the UN Decade of Family Farming will create opportunities for applying a more coordinated and integrated approach to tackle issues of women’s empowerment and gender equality in the context of FSN.

The objective of the workstream is to develop a set of globally accepted Voluntary Guidelines ( VGs) on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

The Voluntary Guidelines will:

- complement, and contribute to, the effective implementation of existing policy guidance tools such as the VGGT, CFS-RAI, CFS-FFA and the Right to Food Guidelines;

- build on the CFS Policy Recommendations on Gender, Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 2011/Final Report), the background document (CFS 2017/Inf 21) and the outcomes of the CFS Forum on Women’s Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 2017/44/Report);

- expand on the following themes: i) the underlying causes of gender inequality, lack of fulfillment and protection of women’s rights, women’s disempowerment, and their impact on food security and nutrition; ii) women’s participation in decision-making and leadership; iii) access to and control over natural and productive resources, and access to productive services, iv) access to decent work and markets; v) recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work, vi) women’s role in food production, utilization and consumption; vii) mechanisms for the elimination of violence and discrimination against women and girls, and viii) enabling policy and institutional environment.
The workstream will recognize the diversity of different groups of women and men (including indigenous people, ethnic minorities, disadvantaged groups, etc). It will also build on international (e.g. the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) and regional agreements and strategies (e.g. the Gender Strategy of the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025, the Gender Strategy of the African Union 2017-2027, etc.) and global initiatives on gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights, as well as on the experiences of their implementation.

2.1.4. Promoting youth employment in food systems, sustainable rural transformation and territorial approaches (SDG2 <-> SDG 8)

Agriculture is the main source of income for 80% of the world’s poor. This sector is therefore crucial in reducing poverty, raising incomes and improving food security and nutrition.

Considering that the associated growth originating from agriculture is 2-4 times more effective at reducing poverty than growth originating from other sectors, and that almost 200 million rural poor could migrate to urban areas by 2030 (World Bank), there is a need to develop and implement policies that make the agricultural and agri-food sectors more attractive and able to provide decent jobs, particularly for youth.

Going forward, the need for more and better jobs in agriculture and across food systems will be even greater as 1.6 billion people in low and middle income countries are expected to reach working age over the next 15 years.

The workstream encompasses several of the issues raised in the HLPE 2nd note on critical and emerging issues for FSN. It mainly relates to the current trend of urbanization (2.1) and to the important challenge it poses of building sustainable food chains (1.2.3). It is also closely linked to the topic of social issues (1.2.4) and the need to facilitate access to means of production including land tenure and credit, access to knowledge, training as well as technologies (2.8) to attract youth towards a more innovative and sustainable agrifood world.

The objective of the workstream is to develop a set of policy recommendations on “Promoting youth employment, rural transformation and territorial approaches”.

More specifically, the workstream could focus on the following set of critical issues:

- Which policies, innovations and initiatives are most successful in drawing more young people to agri-food related professions?
- What are the key drivers of the rural exodus and how can they be addressed?
- How can food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages provide more and better jobs for youth?
- What are the key driving factors and enabling conditions for food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages to create employment and decent work?
- What is the role of small cities and rural towns in promoting youth employment in the food systems?
- What is the potential of territorial approaches in providing an analytical and operational framework for understanding and addressing the complexity of the structural economic, cultural, social and spatial transformations currently taking place across the world?
2.1.5. Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition (SDG2 <-> SDG 10)

Reducing inequalities within and among countries is the 10th Sustainable Development Goal for Sustainable Development (SDG10).

Inequalities explain why global availability does not translate into global access to food, both because of unequal distribution of income and because the demand of wealthier populations drives food and resource price increases. In turn, poverty is also a major cause of food insecurity and hunger. All the different dimensions of inequalities are a major cause of FSN insecurity, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, women, youth and ethnic minorities. Moreover, inequalities also undermine good governance, implementation of human rights including the right to food, and efforts to improve food security and nutrition.

Social and economic inequalities were one of the main causes of the so-called “hunger riots” in 2008 (HLPE, 2011). Inequalities, identified in the first HLPE Critical and Emerging Issues note in 2014 (HLPE, 2014a), continues to be critical. Inequalities are pointed out as a major concern by many organizations (OECD, 2011; WEF, 2013; IMF, 2014; Oxfam, 2014). Since then, evidence shows that increasing risks to food security can be linked to high levels of corporate concentration in food trade, transformation and distribution (Hendrickson, 2014; HLPE, 2016). Unequal endowments in agricultural assets and access to natural resources on the one hand (De Schutter, 2011) and to income on the other hand remain complex and multifaceted concerns for FSN.

The issue of inequalities has been highlighted by many respondents to the 2016 HLPE consultation, with a focus on gender and youth. Empowering women and closing the gender gap, while providing decent employment to young rural people (Losch et al., 2012; World Bank, 2012) are seen as critical for sustainable food systems and improved FSN. According to FAO, closing the gender gap in agriculture would, for example, result in 150 million fewer hungry people (FAO, 2011).

The objective of the workstream is to produce policy guidance on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition.

More specifically, the workstream could focus on the following set of critical issues:

- How can the reduction of global, regional and national inequalities in income and in access to resources foster sustainable economic and social transformation and improve FSN?
- What are the interlinkages between current food systems and inequalities and how can transitioning to context-specific sustainable food systems reduce inequalities? In what dimensions?
- Which pathways should be considered?
- What is the role of global governance of FSN in reducing inequalities?
- How can the reduction of inequalities through sustainable food systems and better FSN contribute to conflict prevention, peace building and decrease in migration problems?
- How can gender mainstreaming and youth employment programmes in the food and agriculture sector and rural areas contribute to social justice and better FSN?
2.1.6. Armed conflicts, Forced Migrations and Food Security and Nutrition (SDG2 <-> SDG 16)

There is growing evidence of a nexus between armed conflicts, forced migration and food insecurity and malnutrition. This nexus is being analyzed and addressed by a number of international institutions.

The second HLPE Note on Critical and Emerging Issues, released in 2017, has identified conflicts and migration as emerging issues for food security and nutrition. While SOFI 2017 highlighted the role of conflicts as key drivers of severe food crises, it found significantly worse levels of hunger and undernutrition in cases of prolonged conflicts, states’ fragility and weak institutions.

The role of food insecurity and malnutrition in triggering cross-border forced migration has been analyzed and investigated by WFP in its report titled “At the root of exodus: Food security, conflict and international migration”. In addition, the three RBAs and IOM last year produced a technical report on “Linkages between Migration, Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development” in which conflicts, political instability and protracted crises are identified among the main drivers of migration.

Since 2016, FAO and WFP jointly produce a periodic report to the UN Security Council (UNSC) on the status of food insecurity in situations of conflict; and with its UNSC Resolution 2417 (2018), the Security Council committed to addressing conflict-induced food insecurity and famine.

In 2015 CFS endorsed the “Framework for Action for FSN in protracted crises” (FFA). The FFA provides a number of recommendations on how to deal with FSN in context of conflicts and natural disasters, by improving the food security and nutrition of populations affected by, or at risk of, a protracted crisis.

The proposed thematic workstream meets all of the prioritization criteria outlined in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report. More specifically, the workstream: (i) contributes to the CFS vision and overall objective by addressing some of the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition with a focus on the people most affected; (ii) adds value to existing CFS policy guidance; (iii) foresees the preparation of a HLPE report to provide evidence; (iv) will draw upon technical expertise from the RBAs currently implementing a joint programme on resilience in conflict-affected and fragile countries; (v) addresses critical, urgent and emerging FSN issues as identified by the second HLPE note, SOFI 2017 and the work of the RBAs.

The workstream is expected to produce an integrated and comprehensive policy framework/guidance providing a global reference for addressing the nexus between conflicts, forced migration and food security and nutrition.

More specifically, the workstream could focus on the following set of critical issues:

- How are armed conflicts, forced migration and food insecurity linked?
- What is the impact of conflicts on agricultural production and food systems and what are their consequences in terms of migration?
- What is the role of agriculture and food systems in preventing crises and migration, sustaining recovery and fostering development?
- How can the impacts of conflicts and forced migration on food systems be mitigated?
- How can we boost resilience of local/regional food systems to prevent food crises and forced migration, and enhance response and recovery when crises strike?
- What are the nutritional impacts of conflicts and forced migration on people affected by armed conflicts and how can those impacts be mitigated?
- What is the impact of conflict and forced migration on food systems when these are compounded by climate change, natural resource overexploitation, socio-economic inequality and/or market failure?
- What is the role of global governance of FSN, in reducing conflict-induced food crisis and forced migration?

2.1.7. Data collection and analysis tools\(^3\) (SDG2)

There is no efficient path to achieving SDG2 – ending hunger, achieving food security and nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture – without evidence-based decisions informed by accurate agricultural, food security, and nutrition data. More effective targeting of interventions, improved national policies, effective business decisions, and increased resources for the agricultural sector all hinge on having and using improved data to inform policy and investment decisions and measure progress toward shared goals.

The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics at FAO, the World Bank’s Living Standard Measurement Study’s Integrated Surveys on Agriculture, FAO’s AGRI Survey programme, and the new 50x2030 Initiative to Close Agricultural Data Gaps are four programs that are dramatically reducing the agricultural and food security data gaps. These efforts are providing countries with the tools they need to measure national agricultural production, productivity, sustainability and FSN policy results. At the same time, they are enabling the development community to track progress on key food security and agricultural objectives under international and regional initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme.

Producing accurate and timely data to fill data gaps is the first step toward the evidence-based decision-making required for achieving SDG2. Yet, beyond that first step, we must take a few more steps along the data value chain to arrive at its ultimate link – data use for sound decision-making.

After data are produced, they must be made available to a variety of users, they must be analyzed to create information or evidence, and that information and evidence must be used to make decisions that will yield maximum impact. While several studies have examined the problem of how to promote the use of data for evidence-based decision-making, the food security and agricultural sectors have not conducted a thorough analysis of the status, constraints, and potentially untapped benefits of data use for food insecurity and agriculture problems.

The objective of the workstream would be to increase the understanding and awareness among CFS stakeholders of data needs in food security and agriculture as well as how data can better contribute to increased levels of food security.

More specifically, the workstream could focus on the following set of critical issues:

- what are the greatest barriers impeding data use for decision-making related to agriculture and food security across the public, private, civil society, and academic sectors?

\(^3\) As per the Bureau decision at its meeting on 6 March, discussions on this topic should focus on ways to streamline data collection and analysis tools in other relevant workstreams.
what are existing successful practices to promote evidence-based decision-making in agriculture and food security across the public, private, and academic sectors?
what are the benefits of using data and the opportunity costs of not using data for decision-making?

Strategic Objective 3 - UPTAKE

Foster the uptake, follow-up and review, and sharing of experiences and best practices on the use and application of CFS products at all levels.

Output 3.1: Conclusions of follow-up and review sessions

Delivered through the follow-up and review of both global and country/region specific FSN situations, trends, progress, challenges and sharing lessons; assessing the effectiveness of CFS and voluntarily monitoring the use and application of its policy products and recommendations.

1.1.1. Global Thematic events on CFS-FFA and CFS-RAI

The Committee at its 44th Session in 2017 decided to hold a Global Thematic Event (GTE) in plenary every two years to monitor CFS main policy products. A GTE will take place at CFS 47 in 2020 and another at CFS 49 in 2022 to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) in 2020, and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) in 2022.

The CFS Plenary in 2017 also agreed to hold events on an ad hoc basis to monitor other CFS policy recommendations. The decision to monitor other CFS policy recommendations in 2020-23 will be taken by the Bureau, after consultation with the Advisory Group.

Output 3.2: Communication and outreach

Delivered by raising awareness of CFS and its work through the CFS website and social media, reporting to global bodies such as UN ECOSOC and sharing information with other UN bodies, and supporting outreach activities of the CFS Chairperson subject to available resources.

3.2.1. Forum - Dialogue and Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition

Following the ongoing CFS policy convergence process towards Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, the proposed activity is intended to leverage the convening power of CFS to provide the platform for CFS members to engage in a dialogue on implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines.

A Forum will take place at CFS 48 (2021) to provide an opportunity to discuss and mobilize political commitment from governments, donors, civil society, private sector, and the UN system for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. This will further help translate the commitments made through the Rome Declaration on Nutrition into SMART commitments for action, in the context of national food system and nutrition related policies, and in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders.

3.2.2. Forum – Dialogue and Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition
Following the CFS policy convergence process towards Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition, the proposed activity is intended to leverage the convening power of CFS to provide the platform for CFS members to engage in a dialogue on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines.

A Forum will take place at CFS 50 (2023) to provide an opportunity to discuss and mobilize political commitment from governments, donors, civil society, private sector, and the UN system for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.

B2. SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

B2.1. CFS Engagement in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

CFS has committed to putting the Sustainable Development Goals at the center of its work until 2030 by:

a) providing space in its Plenary for global thematic reviews of progress as well as for governments and stakeholders to learn from one another, also based on the Voluntary National Reports to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) that are presented in New York;

b) contributing to the HLPF global follow-up and review, based on the modalities to be agreed at the SDG Summit in September 2019.

This supporting activity will also benefit from the upcoming HLPE report on “Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030” whose findings may inform further reflections on how CFS engages in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B2.2. CFS Multi Year Programme of Work

As established in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report, following the adoption of the MYPoW 2020-2023 at CFS 46 in October 2019, “annual updates of the rolling section of the MYPoW will be prepared by the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, and presented to the Plenary for consideration and endorsement. They are intended to reflect Plenary decisions, consider possible adjustment, and review implementation of the MYPoW. The updates will be carried out taking into account resource and workload implications.”

Following CFS plenary discussions on critical and emerging FSN issues at CFS 49 in 2022, Bureau and Advisory Group members, in the intersessional period 2022-2023, are expected to work on the preparation of the MYPoW 2024-2027.

C. ACTIVITIES AND COST ESTIMATES (“Rolling” section)

This section will be fully developed upon completion of the MYPoW selection process. It will include more details on the process and working arrangements required to achieve the objectives and outcomes outlined in section B.

The following preliminary table is based on the assumption that each of the HLPE reports will lead to policy recommendations. The table only shows cost estimates that would have to be covered by extra-budgetary contributions, whereas the timeline in section D shows an indicative overview of parallel activities.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORKSTREAM/ACTIVITY</th>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>COST ESTIMATE (USD)</th>
<th>TOTAL (USD)</th>
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<td>MYPOW</td>
<td>Meeting services</td>
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<sup>4</sup> Additional extra-budgetary costs for this workstream are accounted for in the 2018-19 MYPoW.
D. TIMELINE

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<th>2020</th>
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<td><strong>Inclusive discussions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Uptake/outreach</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SDG Global Thematic Reviews and HLPF contributions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MYPoW 2024-2027</strong></td>
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<td>Plenary and Bureau and Advisory Group meeting planning and organization</td>
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5 The decision to monitor other CFS policy recommendations through ad hoc events in 2020-23 will be taken by the Bureau, after consultation with the Advisory Group.
E. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Annex 1 – 4 and 6 March 2019 - Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau’s Decisions


Annex 3 - Annotated version of the MYPoW preparation workplan