



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Global Strategic Framework (GSF)

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PROPOSAL FOR THE PERIODIC UPDATING OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (GSF)

I. OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of this document is to outline the proposed changes for the Periodic Updating of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF), in line with the mandate given by the Plenary of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in its 42nd session (2015). The GSF is a single reference document which is intended to be flexible and a key instrument to improve coordination and guide synchronized actions by a wide range of stakeholders. Its main added value is to provide an overarching framework with guidelines and recommendations for food security and nutrition strategies, policies and actions validated by CFS.

At its 40th Session in 2013, the Committee approved a two-track process for updating GSF: (i) the regular annual updating, in which updated data and recommendations and decisions from the previous year are incorporated into the GSF, and (ii) the periodic updating. The periodic review would aim at incorporating new developments in the area of food security and nutrition (FSN), especially frameworks and recommendations from other fora. It would also entail a full text review and length adjustment to adapt the document to changing priorities and context, subject to available resources and in line with the agreed principle of developing a simple process and avoiding lengthy text renegotiation¹.

In 2015, CFS stakeholders decided that a consultation process be carried out through the OEWG on GSF, with the objective of completing the first periodic review of the GSF since its adoption in 2012.

It was agreed in the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2016-2017:

“37. The periodic updating process would take the form of a targeted review in order to incorporate major new international developments in the area of food security and nutrition in the text, particularly in Chapter 3 ‘The foundations and overarching frameworks’. The Sustainable Development Goals as well as the outcomes of ICN 2 could represent the main pillars of such update. This process is also meant to carry out a minor technical update of Chapter 4 ‘Policy, programme and other recommendations’ to streamline its content and reduce its length by primarily focusing on CFS recommendations.

¹ CFS 2013/40/5 Rev.1, paragraphs 3 and 4b and CFS 2013/40 Final Report, paragraph 58a.

38. The periodic updating process will also offer an opportunity to think about dissemination options for the GSF, including by making it a more user-friendly on-line resource that might offer more scope to include case studies.

39. The consultation process will be carried out within the GSF OEWG with a view to finalizing the revised version of the GSF before July 2017 and presenting it for endorsement by the Committee at its 44th Plenary Session in October 2017.”

Following the mandate given by the CFS Plenary, the periodic update should result in a more easy-to-use reference document on all major CFS foundations and overarching frameworks while providing a clear source of information on CFS decisions and recommendations. Based on the inputs submitted by the GSF Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) members, there is a common view that the current version is lengthy and that there is need to make the GSF more functional, user-friendly and easier to update and disseminate. This process is also expected to contribute to the development of a dissemination strategy that will improve awareness of the GSF amongst all stakeholders and, therefore, enhance the outreach of all CFS’ decisions and recommendations.

III. THE PERIODIC UPDATING OF THE GSF²

a) Chapter 3 – The foundations and overarching frameworks

Chapter 3 of the GSF already includes a number of overarching frameworks which provide key principles and strategies to achieve FSN. The majority of feedback received from CFS stakeholders supported the proposal that additional references to important policy tools and documents should be based on the following criteria:

- a) They represent globally agreed frameworks and recommendations which are the result of inclusive and participatory processes;
- b) They explicitly address FSN issues, have strong relevance and represent a key reference in this field;
- c) They deal with matters that have already been the subject of CFS debates since the GSF was endorsed.

As agreed at CFS plenary level, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (replacing existing paragraph A on the *Millennium Development Goals*) and the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) will be the main pillars of the forthcoming update of Chapter 3. They represent overarching, global frameworks and key references for the current and future CFS work and activities. In addition, the Paris Agreement reached at the Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is proposed, to highlight the interdependency between climate change and agricultural production as key factors for FSN.

The following text is proposed:

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
In September 2015, 193 countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, committing to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path, in which no one will be

² The Fourth version of the GSF (2015) should be used as a reference to analyse the changes proposed in this document.

left behind. The 2030 Agenda is universal, applicable to all countries at all levels of development, and seeks to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. It commits all countries and stakeholders to center on “People”, “Planet”, “Prosperity”, “Peace” and “Partnership” and achieve its 17 goals and 169 targets, which are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The goals and targets seek to realize the human rights of all and many of them relate to issues discussed within CFS, especially SDG 2, “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”. The 2030 Agenda is country owned, but success in its implementation will depend on countries’ capacity to mobilize the support of all stakeholders towards the goals and their means of implementation. In this regard, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development recognizes the important contribution of CFS decisions and recommendations to scale up efforts to end hunger and malnutrition. The 2030 Agenda also reaffirms explicitly the important role and inclusive nature of the CFS, which has decided to put the advancement of the 2030 Agenda at the center of its work as well as to contribute, within its mandate, to the thematic follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda.

- Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)

In November 2014, FAO and WHO member states committed to end hunger and malnutrition in all its forms at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), “reaffirming the right to everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger”. The *Rome Declaration on Nutrition* and the *ICN 2 Framework for Action* were endorsed by participating governments at the Conference. The *Rome Declaration*³ highlights that effectively tackling malnutrition requires holistic, cross-sectorial policies and coordinated action among different actors at all levels, and calls upon the United Nations System, including CFS, to step up efforts and enhance international cooperation on the matter. It is complemented by a *Framework for Action*⁴ comprising a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for consideration by governments, in cooperation with other stakeholders, to implement ICN2 commitments and report on progress. Both documents were endorsed by the UN General Assembly in the resolution that proclaimed 2016-2025 the Decade of Action on Nutrition, which will be implemented by FAO and WHO, with the collaboration of WFP, IFAD, UNICEF and the involvement of coordination mechanisms such as the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) and multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

- Paris Agreement at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 21st Conference of the Parties

The Paris agreement was reached in December 2015 at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) and signed by all the 195 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This represents global consensus on the reduction of greenhouse gas

³ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf>

emissions and measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change and sets out a global action plan to achieve the goal of containing the global temperature increase to well below 2°C. The agreement reached at COP 21, which will enter into force in 2020, recognized the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change.

The current paragraph H in Chapter 3 includes a list of other frameworks and documents that could be relevant to the achievement of food security and nutrition. This list could be updated by including a reference to the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). They were endorsed at the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014 and represent global consensus on principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries governance and development, a topic that was addressed within the context of CFS in October 2014. The list could also be enriched by including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted in March 2015 at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The framework recognizes the importance of addressing food insecurity and undernutrition to reduce vulnerability and build resilience. It emphasizes the importance of anticipating long-term risks, taking action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk. It highlights the contribution of climate change to increasing the risks to food systems posed by higher temperatures, drought, flooding and irregular rainfall. The existing reference to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Framework and Roadmap would be updated to refer to the new SUN strategy.

With regards to the additional initiatives and frameworks that were suggested by OEWG members, the *Third International Conference on Financing for Development*, the *WHO Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition*, and the *WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases* are already, directly or indirectly, part of the new references to the 2030 Agenda and ICN 2. It is suggested that no additional reference is included. Reference to the suggested major global events that will take place in the future (the *World Humanitarian Summit* in May 2016, and the *Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development* in October 2016) will not be included for now. Once held, the outcomes will be considered by the OEWG to see if they result in globally agreed frameworks relevant to FSN that stakeholders agree should be included in Chapter 3. Other suggestions do not meet all the criteria established for the inclusion in Chapter 3 (the *Milan Charter*).

b) Chapter 4 – Policy, programme and other recommendations

The OEWG on GSF was given the mandate to carry out a minor technical update of Chapter 4 to streamline its content and reduce its length by focusing primarily on CFS recommendations. Consistent with this mandate and considering that GSF shall become “a more user-friendly online resource”, the following proposals are presented to promote the usability and effectiveness of this chapter without changing the substance nor reopening already agreed text:

1. Replace the existing text, in each paragraph, with direct links to the relevant policy recommendations and instruments agreed within the CFS framework, and with a short introductory sentence presenting the content of the link. This would make Chapter 4 more user-friendly, increase consistency among its different paragraphs by making reference to agreed CFS recommendations. It would also facilitate the regular GSF update, which would

apply the same procedure every year by creating a direct link to the agreed recommendations. The short introductory sentence would read as follows: “*CFS has agreed on the “(title of the policy recommendations/tools)”, endorsed at the (...) Plenary Session of CFS in (...), as a result of a policy discussion based on the content of the HLPE report on (...)/Forum/etc.”.*

- ✓ Those paragraphs making reference to the outcomes of CFS policy discussions based on HLPE reports (C, D, E, J, K, L, M, N, O) would include links to the agreed recommendations and to the reports of the HLPE;
 - ✓ The text of paragraphs that refer to CFS policy convergence products would be replaced by direct links to the agreed policy tools, and a short introductory sentence presenting the content of the link. For example:
 - i. Paragraphs B, H and I would include direct links to, respectively, the *Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems*, the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* and the *Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises*;
 - ii. Similarly, pending the decision to be taken at CFS 43 on CFS activities on nutrition, paragraph G on *Nutrition* could be kept while the current text would be replaced with a link to the CFS nutrition workstream dedicated webpage.
 - ✓ In this context, it is proposed that the sub-sections in Chapters 4 and 5 that make reference to “*Ongoing CFS work on policy convergence related to this issue*” be deleted. These sub-sections in their current form add length to the text and do not accurately represent the actual “ongoing work”, since they quickly get outdated as the workstreams are developed throughout the year.
 - ✓ On the same lines, the eight case studies that are now present in Chapters 4 and 5 would be removed. They are not negotiated text and some of them are now outdated.
2. Remove paragraphs containing text which is not taken directly from CFS policy recommendations and retain references to those tools through links in other related paragraphs. For example:
- ✓ Paragraph A, *The Twin-Track Approach*, stresses the need to link shorter and longer term interventions which is one of the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security agreed in 2009 and is mentioned as a key pillar of the United Nations Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action – UCFA - (paragraphs C and G in Chapter 3). This concept is also mentioned in Chapter 4, paragraph J on Social Protection. Despite the deletion of paragraph A, this concept would be made available in the abovementioned paragraphs;
 - ✓ Similarly, paragraph F, *Increasing Agricultural Productivity and Production in a Socially, Economically and Environmentally Sustainable Manner*, which draws on the Rome Principles, the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate

Food in the Context of National Food Security and the UCFA (paragraphs B, C and G in Chapter 3) and is not directly taken from CFS recommendations.

3. Existing paragraph C on *Increasing Smallholder-Sensitive Investment in Agriculture* and paragraph M on *Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for FSN* could be merged and named *Investing in Smallholders* to include direct links to the related recommendations agreed at CFS 37 and CFS 40.

c) Editorial changes

The following additional editorial changes which would improve the coherence of the document within the mandate given by the CFS Plenary are proposed:

1. To avoid the current confusion regarding the different annual GSF versions, the online GSF will always represent the latest version, without having to change the title and differentiate between versions.
2. The “Chapters”, which bear the idea of a book and denote a sequential document, would be renamed “Sections”. This minor change would encourage users to see the GSF as a more accessible document which they can navigate as they wish.
3. In addition to replacing existing paragraph A in Chapter 3 on MDGs with a new one on SDGs, the other references to MDGs that are present throughout the document would be treated as follows:
 - ✓ P.10: the reference to *MDG 1c hunger target* would be deleted given that progress against MDGs will no longer be reported;
 - ✓ P.55: reference to *MDGs* would be deleted together with the case study where it is mentioned;
 - ✓ P.58: Possible changes would need to be discussed at GSF OEWG level;
 - ✓ P.62: the two references to *MDGs* would be replaced with *SDGs* while the reference to *MDG1* would be replaced with *SDG2*;
 - ✓ P.66: keep the reference to *MDG* in the list of abbreviations and add reference to *SDGs* in the same list;
 - ✓ P.68: reference to *MDGs* to be deleted given that progress against MDGs will no longer be reported;
 - ✓ P.70: endnote to be deleted given that the paragraph A in Chapter 3 on *MDGs* will be replaced with a new paragraph on *SDGs*;
 - ✓ P.73: endnote to be deleted given that it is linked to the text in a section that would be removed from the GSF (“ongoing CFS work on policy convergence”).

IV. GSF COMMUNICATION PLAN

A more streamlined and coherent GSF would greatly facilitate communication and outreach. A more structured online GSF with thematic sections, links to CFS recommendations, a link to the website for current activities, and introducing a search facility including keywords, would make it easy for stakeholders to find all CFS work related to a given topic.

The new proposed format would also enable the creation of a backlink between the existing work of the Committee and the GSF. The existing policy recommendations will be reformatted to include an information box showing that they are part of the GSF. For example, a stakeholder may be aware of the CFS policy recommendations on climate change, but not realize that they are part of the GSF. Including such text on the policy recommendations would also inform people of the GSF and encourage them to explore it further.

Besides the online version, there will still be the possibility of printing out the GSF, entirely or partially.

Once the online GSF is available, a communication brainstorming could be held for CFS stakeholders to give their ideas on what they can do within their constituencies to promote the awareness and use of the GSF. As a starting point the following products can be developed by the Secretariat:

- An easily recognizable GSF visual identity in line with other CFS products
- A Quick Guide to the GSF - Who's it for and how to use it?
- An infographic
- A GSF Guide for the RBAs

V. BUDGET ESTIMATE

According to the current proposal, and based on the written inputs provided by OEWG members, there should not be a need for a negotiation to finalize the updated GSF. This implies that the budget estimate included in the MYPoW 2016-2017, which was based only on staff time and interpretation costs, can be absorbed within the CFS regular budget.

However, there would be a need for resources to implement the outreach and communication activities.

Online version	50,000
Development of info products	10,000
Staff time	86,451
Administrative costs	19,038
TOTAL	165,489