



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

Document No: CFS OEWG- MYPoW/2017/05/02/02

CFS OEWG-MYPoW Meeting # 02

Date: 2 May 2017

Time: 14.00-17.00

Location: IFAD Italian Conference Room

LONGER-TERM MYPoW

BACKGROUND

At its 43rd Session in October 2016, the Committee invited the MYPoW OEWG to consider the possibility to implement a longer-term MYPoW¹, based on the assumption that this option would facilitate planning of future activities and synergies with other processes taking place outside CFS.

The MYPoW OEWG is expected to present a response on the matter to CFS 44 next October.

An initial discussion took place at the last OEWG meeting on 6 February which was informed by a background document presenting potential implications of this solution.

The document mentioned that a longer-term MYPoW where main objectives, activities and cost estimates are defined from the outset could assist potential donors who would have a longer-term horizon for planning contributions. It was also considered that this option would enable more realistic planning of activities and the timeframes for completing them, and may assist with workload balance. It reiterated the importance of a flexible preparation process where emerging issues can be accommodated and that is not more resource-intensive than the present one. It stated that a MYPoW whose length exceeds the mandate of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group would not present procedural constraints. It also highlighted that this would facilitate planning the CFS policy work taking into consideration the HLPF review themes and underlined the importance to use the HLPF reviews and the HLPE note on critical and emerging issues as foundation inputs for the identification of future CFS priorities and objectives².

The MYPoW OEWG members considered the potential implications of this option, presented their initial views regarding the different points included in the document and discussed the possible way-forward.

In particular, *“it was clarified that a longer term MYPoW did not inherently present challenges to the FAO biennial budgetary cycle, and several other committees already had longer term MYPoWs. The MYPoW would need to note the budgetary constraints (eg where budget wasn’t secured beyond a certain time), and presently the MYPoW is approved without secure financing. The need to further explore the implications of a MYPoW whose term is longer than the mandate of the Bureau and Advisory Group was expressed. Alternative solutions, such as a five-year strategic plan in support of a two-year MYPoW or the development of a rolling-plan MYPoW, were also put on the table for future consideration.*

¹ This proposal was included in paragraph 11 of the document CFS 2016/43/6 which was endorsed at CFS 43.

² CFS/OEWG/MYPoW/02/06/02/Implications of a longer-term MYPoW

Many felt a longer term horizon would improve planning and reduce pressure to overload CFS in the short term, but some had reservations. It was highlighted that this discussion would benefit from an in-depth analysis of the outcomes of the CFS evaluation which is expected to provide useful inputs on this matter.

Independently from its length, the importance of a flexible MYPoW where emerging issues can be accommodated throughout the process, was highlighted”³.

OUTCOMES OF THE CFS EVALUATION

As requested, the recommendations of the CFS Evaluation concerning the structure, nature, length and preparation process of the CFS programme of work are presented below.

ES47. **Recommendation 1** [ref: Conclusions 1 & 2]: The Committee should direct the Bureau to lead the development of a strategic plan/framework to guide CFS’s work over the medium-to-long term, using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as its frame of reference, and informed by amongst other things, the Critical and Emerging Issues paper of the HLPE. While the Bureau leads the process, it should be an inclusive process that draws on the insights of all CFS Members and Participants, and other relevant stakeholders. An OEWG structure supported by a Technical Task Team should be tasked to develop the plan/framework.

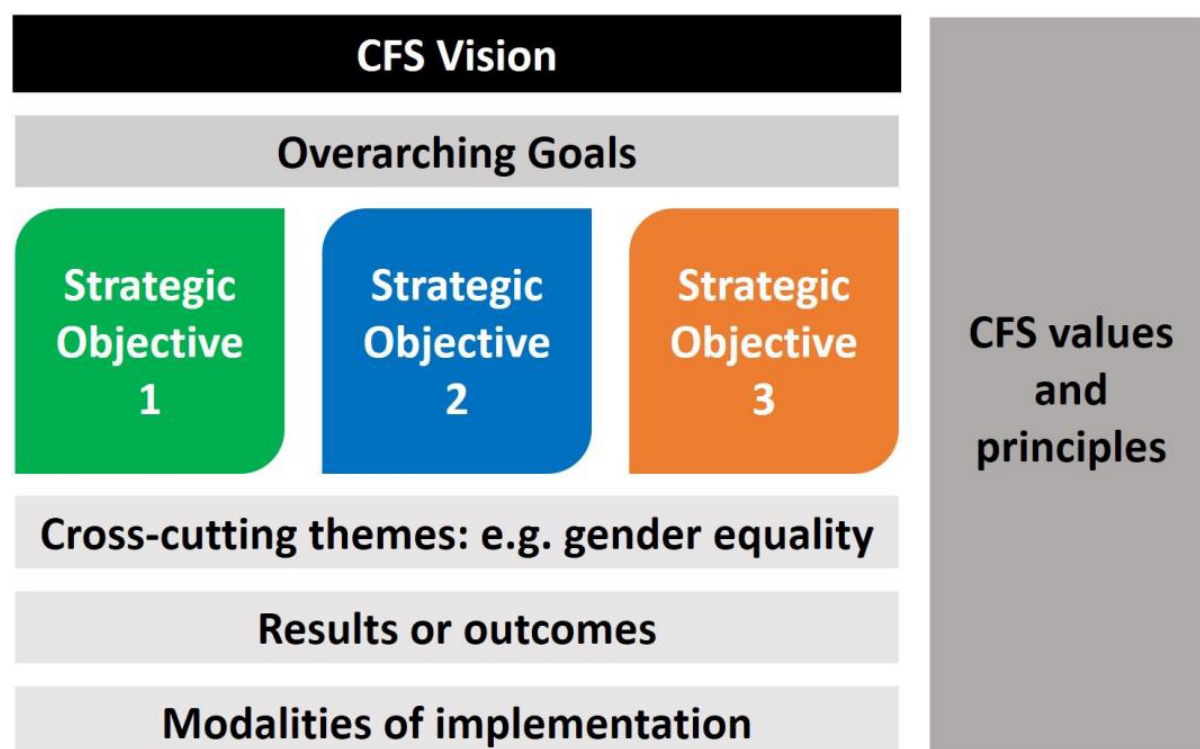
ES48. The evaluation team does not wish to prescribe the particular planning regime that the Committee should adopt, as each organization needs to find what approach is best suited for its mandate. The United Nations system has adopted a results-based approach to planning, and the Committee is advised to incorporate the principles of a results-based approach into its framework. It would be useful to consider the approaches adopted by the Rome-Based Agencies. FAO has a 10-year strategic framework, and within this, a four-year medium-term plan and a two-year programme of work and budget. IFAD has a 10-year strategic framework, with three-year medium-term plans, while WFP has five-year strategic plan.

ES49. The planning horizon for CFS should be at least six years, covering three biennia, and should be reviewed and updated as necessary. The strategic plan/framework does not replace the MYPoW – it sets the direction within which the MYPoW should be formulated. The MYPoW represents the programme of activities that CFS intends to implement for the duration of the MYPoW.

ES50. The strategic plan or framework should set out the vision of CFS and its overarching goal(s), as well as a small number of strategic objectives to direct it towards achieving or contributing to the goal(s). While there is no prescription on the number of strategic objectives, it is advisable to have no more than five, clearly articulated objectives, and the results or outcomes to be achieved. It is important that the Committee consider the pathways for achieving the intended outcomes or results, and here the indicative programme logic developed in the course of the evaluation, can be used as a guide. The development of the strategic plan/framework also provides an opportunity for the Committee to clarify the six roles set out in the Reform Document, and the modalities for carrying out these roles. Figure 1 shows schematically the indicative elements of a strategic plan/framework.

³ CFS/OEWG/MYPoW/02/06/03/OUTCOMES

Figure 1: Indicative elements of a strategic plan/framework



ES51. As part of the process of developing the strategic plan/framework, CFS should draw on the forthcoming Critical and Emerging Issues Paper of the HLPE, and information on what other global actors are doing in FSN, to enable CFS to clarify its niche and where it can add value. The strategic plan/framework should be informed by the realities ‘on the ground’: the CFS should obtain information on the national FSN priorities, as well as information on existing and planned national platforms. The Advisory Group, the Rome-Based Agencies and WHO are well-placed to provide information on national priorities and national platforms.

ES52. **Recommendation 2** [ref: Conclusion 9]: The MYPoW structure and process should be revised. The MYPoW should be informed by, and aligned to the strategic framework, and there should be a clear link between the activities in the MYPoW and the results or outcomes in the strategic framework. CFS is investigating the option of a four-year MYPoW. Given the difficulty that CFS has in securing a firm budget for a two-year period, extending the MYPoW to four years will simply mean having a plan with many unfunded activities. The need for a medium-term perspective is catered for by the introduction of a strategic plan/framework that covers three biennia.

ES53. The MYPoW should be linked to the budgeting process to reduce the chronic funding deficits faced by the MYPoW. While CFS seeks to ensure sustainable funding, it should also prioritize its work, streamlining workstreams and potentially de-emphasizing other work streams where appropriate. CFS needs to determine the delicate balance between quality and quantity of workstreams and avoid spreading itself too thinly. Any MYPoW presented at the CFS Plenary should include a committed budget with specific allocation to prioritized workstreams. There should be an understanding that other workstreams should not start until extrabudgetary funding is available⁴.

NEXT STEPS

⁴ CFS Evaluation Final Report – Executive Summary – 14 April 2017

The MYPoW OEWG on 2 May is expected to discuss the results of the evaluation concerning the length, the nature, the structure and the preparation process of future CFS planning strategies.

The objective would be to analyze the recommendations of the CFS Evaluation in order to provide some inputs that could be used to feed the preliminary discussions taking place in advance of the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings on 7 and 8 June where consensus is expected to be found on the draft Plan of Action of the CFS Evaluation.

The decision to be taken at the Bureau meeting on 8 June will be reflected in the CFS 44 MYPoW OEWG response on the longer-term MYPoW and the CFS 44 MYPoW Draft Decision that will be presented for discussion and finalization at the last OEWG meeting on 19 June.

For each of the abovementioned recommendations, MYPoW OEWG members on 2 May are invited to consider whether they can be accepted, partially accepted or rejected, the actions to be taken for their implementation, possible responsible body and timeframe for their implementation and funding needs.