



CFS OEWG-Nutrition #2

Date: 25 February 2016

Time: 14:30-17:30

Location: WFP Auditorium

Webcast link:

IISD reporting: <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/enbplus184num12e.pdf>

Outcomes

Agenda

- 1- Welcome word
- 2- Revised proposal for CFS engagement in advancing nutrition
- 3- Next steps

Outcomes

1- Welcome word

The Chair opened the meeting and the agenda was agreed. The Chair informed participants that the request for a report on nutrition and food systems had been transmitted to the HLPE, after approval by the CFS Bureau. He introduced the meeting document “CFS Engagement in Advancing Nutrition” (OEWG/Nutrition/2016/02/25/02) in addition to the information note providing an overview of some important actors in nutrition (OEWG/Nutrition/2016/02/25/03), and a concept note on reporting on the overall follow-up of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

2- Revised proposal for CFS engagement in advancing nutrition

The CFS Secretariat presented the main changes in the revised proposal for CFS engagement in advancing nutrition, in particular the inclusion of a vision for CFS work in nutrition, and the elaboration of the three interconnected and mutually reinforcing functions: policy convergence; lessons and good practice sharing; and using the CFS platform for reviewing process.

The chair suggested to divide the discussion into two main parts: i) general direction and vision; and ii) CFS functions and activities.

Part 1: General direction and vision

Participants acknowledged major improvements in the proposal. There was general convergence on starting CFS nutrition work with a focus on food systems with possible

extension to other areas at a later stage and on the three functions to improve the nutritional outcomes of food systems.

A number of general and specific comments were provided to further improve the proposal. They included the need to define a broader holistic long term inspirational vision for CFS nutrition work which goes beyond the early focus on food systems; to indicate a commitment to the implementation of ICN2 recommendations and identify activities within the scope of the ICN2 outcomes; and to give more emphasis to the Right to Food. Referring to the vision that was proposed in para.12 of the proposal, participants requested to include the notions of “access”, “adequacy”, “diversity”, “cultural aspects” and “food preferences”.

Participants emphasized the importance of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable that lack access to food, including indigenous and traditional people and women, of promoting women’s equal responsibilities and decision-making capacity, of covering all forms of malnutrition which include undernutrition, wasting and stunting, of considering the two-way relationship between nutrition and food systems and of focusing on healthy diets rather than on food and nutrients.

Participants asked to clarify the connections and collaboration between CFS and other actors within the nutrition landscape in order to avoid overlaps and promote complementarity and synergy, in particular with UNSCN. It was important to stay abreast of progress in New York regarding the proposed General Assembly Resolution on the Decade of Action on Nutrition. Regarding UNSCN, participants were informed of on-going efforts to finalize a strategic plan for 2016-2020 that would clarify its role. It was suggested the UNSCN Chair be invited to present this plan in the next meeting of the OEWG on nutrition. UNSCN informed participants that they will organize an intersessional event on nutrition on 10 June with support from CFS Secretariat. Participants mentioned the interest of strengthening collaboration with other nutrition initiatives, in particular with the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) working group on sustainable value chains for nutrition, the Global Panel for Agriculture and Food Systems and Nutrition, the SUN movement and REACH.

Overall, participants asked for a short document tailored to the comparative advantages of CFS and accessible to CFS outsiders (avoiding jargon and cryptic language) and for an overhead paragraph stating the importance of nutrition and the challenges and the consequences of malnutrition.

Part 2: Functions and activities

Participants noted that policy convergence work was the most important function for CFS nutrition work taking into account its mandate and roles, that CFS was a key platform to carry out policy convergence work at global level and that this work was much needed. Key issues for developed and developing countries was how to integrate nutrition into agriculture planning and nutrition education. Clarifications were requested on how priorities for policy convergence work will be identified, how the work will be conducted and the concrete outcomes, noting that different levels of ambition for the outcomes implied different timeframes.

Participants asked to better define how the CFS platform would be used (format) for lesson and good practice exchanges, and support was expressed for south-south and triangular exchanges, though there was a lack of clarity on how these exchanges would take place within CFS.

Participants asked for more clarity on the reviewing function and underlined the need for the nutrition and SDG OEWGs to coordinate their work. There was general agreement on inviting FAO/WHO to report on the implementation of ICN2 recommendations as per the information note. There was a request to clarify what CFS will report to FAO/WHO.

Participants asked for more information on expected outcomes across the three functions. Some participants called for a stronger focus on the food industry and role of private sector, with some divergences on the interest of highlighting the tension between nutrition and profitability objectives. It was noted that food systems are mostly ran by the private sector, rather than by governments, which therefore has a role to play. The challenge is then to have the private sector contribute to more positive nutrition outcomes. It was suggested that CFS convenes a session on this issue.

3- Next steps

- Participants will send comments on the proposal to the CFS Secretariat by **10 March**;
- A new version will be prepared by the Secretariat with support from the Technical Task Team, and circulated to the OEWG by **31 March**;
- The revised version of the proposal will be sent to the OEWG by **15 April**. The proposal is planned to be finalized at the last OEWG meeting on 29 April.