Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Nutrition

Document CFS OEWG-Nutrition 2017/06/01/02

Revised submission to the MYPoW Open-Ended Working Group

Background

1. Based on the deliberations in the MYPoW OEWG, the Chair stressed the need to be more specific on what to expect from each proposed workstream in order to provide clear guidance in the MYPoW to be approved by the plenary next October. More specifically, the MYPoW Chair has mentioned that “the definition of clear objectives and results is also essential to facilitate and inform the discussions towards the prioritization of the activities for the next biennium.”

2. The MYPoW Chair requested the Nutrition OEWG to dedicate a space in the agenda of 1st of June meeting “to discuss the scope, objectives, expected outcomes and process of these workstreams over the next biennium. The outcomes of the discussions in the Nutrition OEWG will inform the Chair’s Proposal to be discussed at the next MYPoW OEWG meeting on 19 June.”

3. The MYPoW OEWG also requested “to indicate the date of the conclusion of this workstream, to be clearer on what would be done, and to leave open the possibility to do something different than policy guidance. It was also noted that the expected contribution to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition could be further articulated.”

4. In order to reformulate the OEWG on Nutrition’s submission to the MYPoW, the chair of the OEWG on Nutrition and the CFS Secretariat have conducted several informal consultation with Members and stakeholders seeking their guidance regarding the future work of the CFS on nutrition.

CFS Engagement in Advancing Nutrition

5. The strategy on CFS engagement in advancing nutrition (CFS 2016/43/9) endorsed in 2016 recognises the “paramount importance of nutrition” as well as its complexity and multidimensionality. In consideration of this and with the objective of “ensuring that policy guidance is effective and relevant to countries - considering political, institutional, technical and capacity dimensions - and results in policies that positively impact on nutrition”, the strategy foresees a workplan that spans three intersessional periods, leading to the development of policy products in priority areas after CFS 45 in 2018. Such products are to be brought to Plenary for endorsement, the first opportunity for doing so being CFS 46 in 2019.

6. As per the strategy, the CFS work on nutrition has been planned and is being carried out through three interconnected and mutually reinforcing functions: policy convergence; lessons and good practice sharing; and using the CFS platform for tracking progress. The strategy identifies a number of activities for these functions. All of such activities, i.e. including those foreseen under the lessons and good practice sharing and the tracking progress function, are meant to contribute to the policy convergence work, which is considered as “central to CFS engagement in advancing nutrition”.

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1 Outcomes, second meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on MYPoW, doc. CFS OEWG- MYPoW/2017/05/02/04
7. The strategy clearly indicates that the “identification of priorities and policy outcomes for policy convergence work to be based on the HLPE report on nutrition and food systems, lessons and good practices, and progress in achieving nutrition outcomes” is to culminate with the agreement at CFS 45 in 2018 of Terms of Reference (TOR) by Plenary.

A Revised Proposal for the MYPoW OEWG

8. In view of the above and reaffirming the choice made by CFS 43 for a thorough and articulate process leading to policy convergence work after CFS 45, the OEWG on Nutrition could consider presenting to the MYPoW OEWG for its meeting on 19 June a submission focusing mainly on the first year of the 2018-2019 biennium, the 2017-2018 intersessional period.

9. A MYPoW proposal concentrating mainly on the next intersessional period would have the development of the TOR for policy convergence at its centre. This first submission will be complemented by a subsequent proposal for endorsement at CFS 45 in 2018 focusing on the following year/s. As the work on the terms of reference for policy convergence develops during the 2017-2018 intersessional period, it will provide guidance on the objectives, expected outcomes, the main thematic areas that need specific attention, the process and the type of policy instrument that would be developed and its intended users.

Attached: Revised proposal for the MYPoW OEWG’s consideration.
Draft Revised Submission to the MYPoW Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Rationale

1. The Committee in 2016 endorsed a strategy on CFS engagement in advancing nutrition (CFS 2016/43/9) which highlights that “the nutrition dimension is integral to the concept of food security and to the work of CFS and CFS is committed to further supporting on-going efforts of governments and other stakeholders to address malnutrition.” The strategy foresees such efforts also in the context of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and of the implementation of the ICN2 Framework for Action.

2. CFS work on nutrition has been planned and is being carried out through three interconnected and mutually reinforcing functions: policy convergence; lessons and good practice sharing; and using the CFS platform for tracking progress. Since endorsement of the strategy, CFS requested its High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) to prepare a report on Nutrition and Food Systems to be presented at CFS 44 in 2017, undertook intersessional events on investment for healthy food systems; impact assessment of policies to support healthy food environments and healthy diets; and on stunting, to help develop common understanding of some of the most prominent issues around malnutrition and potential policy remedies in different contexts and food systems, to prepare the ground for upcoming policy convergence work. The Committee at its 44th Session in October 2017 will see an entire day dedicated to nutrition inclusive of sharing lessons and good practices on investments for healthy food systems and receiving progress reporting on ICN2 from FAO and WHO.

3. The strategy foresees a workplan that expands throughout three intersessional periods. The development of policy products in priority areas, building on the work undertaken in 2017, is to commence after CFS 45 in 2018. Such products are to be brought to Plenary for endorsement, the first opportunity for doing so being CFS 46 in 2019.

Objectives and expected outcomes

4. The objective of the OEWG’s work in 2018 is to develop Terms of Reference to guide the policy convergence work. The TORs should define key terms, set parameters for the policy convergence, clarify objective, scope and purpose, the main thematic areas that need specific attention, the process and the type of policy instrument that would be developed, and intended users. The TORs will also outline the process to present CFS guidance for endorsement in CFS 46.

Process

5. The TORs will be developed through an inclusive process in an OEWG, using as basis the HLPE report on nutrition and food systems, the Chair’s summaries of the intersessional events on nutrition as well as the outcomes of the lessons and good practices sharing on investments for healthy food systems and reporting on ICN2 activities, which will take place in October 2017.

6. The drafting of the terms of reference for policy convergence will benefit from e-consultations, which could be carried out through the FSN Forum and with the strong support of the RBAs, WHO, other UN organizations and existing relevant initiatives and platforms. Were resources made available, regional conferences would provide a valuable opportunity for the CFS to understand priorities for nutrition and better define the thematic areas for specific policy attention. A draft budget for such activities is described in the table below.
## Nutrition Workstream - Budget Estimate for 2018 (USD)

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<tr>
<th>Workstream coordination</th>
<th>Planned Cost</th>
<th>Available Resources</th>
<th>Total</th>
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