

CSM Comment on the Proposal concerning the Periodic Updating of the GSF

The CSM Working group on GSF provides the following remarks on the proposal for the periodic update of the GSF, circulated by the CFS Secretariat:

1) The Document follows, in general lines, the proposal for a targeted revision of the GSF, as it was proposed by Brazil, discussed by the AG and Bureau on 15 April 2015 and then approved by the Bureau. However, the proposal needs to be completed in several aspects, in order to fulfill its role as Terms of Reference for the GSF targeted revision process:

- a. An explicit definition of the objectives and guiding principles of this process should be included in the document (possibly after the reference to the mandate given by the MYPOW, second page first paragraph).
- b. Before directly going into the questions on Chapter 3 and 4, the proposed methodology for the process should be made explicit, so that it becomes clear for which reason and what purpose which questions need to be addressed.
- c. A timeline for the process should be added at the end of the document, building on the timeline that was approved in April 2015.

2) The meeting of the OEWG on the GSF should help to clarify how the GSF is perceived at this moment, what should be its function in the future, and how we therefore define the objectives of this process in the context of a broader goal for the GSF. The CSM Working Group would like to share the following thoughts on this:

- a. the main function of the GSF should be to become a strongly used living document which serves as a main reference for the elaboration of policies with impact on food security and nutrition on national, regional and global level.
- b. This function is currently not met, and the upcoming targeted revision should help to significantly advance in this direction.
- c. The fact that the institutional and financial support to disseminate and promote the use of the GSF, as compared to other CFS Decisions, like the VGGT, was an important limiting factor.
- d. Another problem is that the GSF, by simply recompiling and adding all new CFS decisions to the text adopted in 2012, is becoming a difficult- to-use encyclopedia which, with the time, also leads to an erosion of coherence.
- e. Therefore the challenge is to convert the GSF progressively in what it was meant to be: a coherent synthesis of CFS decisions that offers the overarching framework for food security and nutrition policies on all levels. Hence, the main goal is to “make the GSF becoming the GSF”, and to ensure that the upcoming updating process is a step towards this goal.
- f. Three action lines need to be followed in this sense in the coming years:
 - i. A strong communication strategy for the use and application of the GSF

- ii. The periodic update of the GSF until October 2017
- iii. The development of a process beyond 2017 which abandons the “recompilation” approach and adopts instead an approach towards a GSF that offers a “coherent synthesis of CFS Decisions”

3) In terms of the more specific questions in the proposal, we would suggest:

- Question 1 and 2: the rationale for including additional references should indeed be that only UN agreed resolutions should be taken up, that have been drafted and negotiated in inclusive and participatory (CFS like) processes, and have a strong relevance for food security and nutrition.
- Question 3: The revision of Chapter 4 should follow the principle that agreed text of CFS Decisions must not be reopened, and that the way, any editorial change or new text added to the Chapter is fully consistent with the existing GSF.
In general, the case studies are not of the same political value as the GSF text that has went through intensive consultations and negotiations. They do not fully reflect what is actually in the text, sometimes they are actually incoherent with it; the current ones are mostly outdated. The case studies should all be removed from the document, and no new ones should be included.
- Question 4 and 5: Civil Society has used the GSF in many aspects and occasions. We produced a manual for social movements and CSO on how to use the GSF, and we supported FAO in producing technical guidance to countries how to use the GSF in national policies on food security and nutrition oriented towards the progressive realization of the Right to Food.
 - We therefore know that a comprehensive communication strategy for the use and application of the GSF is very much needed, as well as the full institutional, operational and financial support of the Rome-based agencies and their outreach facilities. To have an easy to access online version is certainly helpful in this context, but not sufficient.
 - To draft a broader communication and application strategy, a consultation process with those governments that are interested in such process (at least two from each region), the Rome based agencies and the other CFS actors should be conducted, under the guidance of the OEWG on GSF and with the support of the CFS Secretariat. CSM would be very interested to participate in this important endeavor.