

CSM Reaction on the draft proposal on potential HLPE activities in 2020

The CSM welcomes the proposal of the CFS Bureau to request an HLPE contribution to the CFS47 in 2020. The CSM supports the proposal to have a stocktaking analysis in 2020, 10 years after the CFS reform and in a milestone year in the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals with only 10 years left before the 2030 deadline.

The proposal rightly recalls that the HLPE products:

- provide structured evidence-base to inform CFS policy discussions drawing on existing research and knowledge, striving to clarify contradictory information and knowledge and identifying gaps in knowledge and emerging issues.
- are based on a sound, scientific and inclusive process building on a continuous dialogue between HLPE experts and a wide range of knowledge-holders across the world

This proposed HLPE product will have a very different scope than the previous HLPE reports. Reports provide knowledge-based analysis and advice on a specific policy relevant issue. The proposal has more in common with the scope and nature of the HLPE notes on emerging and critical issues. Therefore, the CSM believes this HLPE product should not be called an HLPE “Report”, but be better identified as a HLPE “Note”.

The CSM also proposes that the note goes further than a “synthesis”, as it may limit the scope to what the HLPE and the CFS have already agreed. This may not bode well with the proposed objective, as it may require considerations beyond past themes and an actual analysis of research and policy gaps. We therefore propose it to be a stocktaking analysis rather than a synthesis.

Regarding the specific scope the stocktaking analysis should cover the work undertaken by both the CFS and the HLPE so far. In particular the CSM proposes it should focus on the following elements:

- Identify and analyze the critical evolutions in the **evidence and understanding of the issues related to FSN** and the Right to Adequate Food that have taken place over the past ten years. It would inform the CFS on the major changes in scope of research on FSN, major areas of consensus and of controversy, major gaps/uncertainties in knowledge related to the changing context and emerging issues;
- Building on the above, identify and analyze the main reasons and policy gaps **why we are not on track to achieve SDG2** and related elements of Agenda 2030.
- In consequence, **identify the pathways** and the relevant policy processes and tools through which the CFS recommendations can contribute to the advancement of the CFS vision and of the 2030 agenda. Analyze their opportunities and challenges in terms of the promotion of policy coordination, convergence and coherence and provide concrete recommendations.

The stocktaking analysis should be framed within the CFS vision and take into account the perspective of the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition: what is the actual and potential relevance of CFS and HLPE products for women and youth, indigenous peoples and landless, small-scale and family farmers, artisanal fisherfolks and pastoralists, agricultural and food workers, urban food insecure and consumers?

The CSM proposes that the title of this “**HLPE note**” be: **“Taking Stock 10 years after the CFS reform: opportunities and challenges of building a global narrative on food and nutrition security.”**

In terms of format, while it would not follow the full process of a normal HLPE report, it could build on the process followed for the elaboration of the HLPE Critical and Emerging Issues Notes. It is also important that the process is inclusive.

The HLPE note should inform the future discussions towards the preparation of future CFS MYPoWs and should inform the preparation of future CFS contributions to the HLPF, starting from 2021.