

**Draft CSM Contributions to the Advisory Group and Bureau Meeting
31 January 2018**

Agenda Item 7: Workstreams update and Budget update

Regarding Nutrition: we would have liked the regional symposia on nutrition and food systems, conducted by FAO and WHO, to be organized with an appropriate participation from civil society. However, this was not the case. We reiterate that these symposia were not held as part of the CFS consultation process and did not meet the standards of participation and inclusiveness that are essential to the CFS. The upcoming discussion on the Terms of Reference for the CFS process on food systems and nutrition should carefully take these important parameters of participation and inclusiveness into account.

On the CFS Budget: as expressed in previous occasions, we fear that the gaps in the CFS budget are not only a financial issue, but indicative for a lack of collective political commitment to the CFS. The ways towards a sustainable funding structure are far from being developed.

We are convinced that all those of us who want the CFS to be strong, cannot support a donor driven agenda or a donor driven implementation of the CFS activities. If this would happen, it would be a clear indicator of a weakened CFS.

We are particularly worried about the budget situation of the HLPE. Will the HLPE be able to implement what the CFS requested to do? We would like to know that.

On the CSM situation, you can see our financial report and budget situation in more detail in the Annual Report that is in front of you.

We also need to make you aware that the currently approved funding of the CSM can ensure the functioning of the CSM only until end of April this year. We are confident that further funding is approved by then. We are however deeply concerned about the remaining gap and huge financial uncertainty the CSM continues to face for 2018 and 2019.

Any government that is willing to support civil society participation to the CFS, is warmly invited to consider supporting the CSM in the near future. Undoubtedly, it is the collective responsibility of the reformed CFS, its members, participants and secretariat, to support and ensure the participation of civil society to its deliberations.